

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE:
STILL BETTER THAN EVER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to bring to the House's attention an article about the Government Printing Office from the December 1999 issue of *In-Plant Graphics*.

This prestigious printing-industry journal has, for a second consecutive year, ranked the Government Printing Office first among the "Top 50" printing plants surveyed, thus labeling GPO as the best in-plant operation in America. The December 1998 issue of *In-Plant Graphics*, while bestowing the same honor for the first time, described the GPO as "better than ever." These accolades, from a respected trade publication, together speak volumes about the diligence and dedication of the versatile GPO workforce.

As the 1999 article, entitled "The Digitizing of GPO," reveals, in recent years technology has changed dramatically the way many Americans acquire government information, and the GPO has been in the vanguard. GPO still prints the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and the Federal Register each night for its many customers who must have traditional paper copies, including the Congress itself, and produces other printed products around the clock. However, GPO also distributes these and other products in electronic format, quickly, economically and widely.

As a case in point, late one Friday afternoon last November, the federal district court in Washington delivered to GPO for publication its findings of fact in the Microsoft antitrust case, a proceeding of immense economic significance and national interest. Within one hour of GPO's subsequent release of the document at 6:30 PM, interested persons had accessed it 152,000 times through a special GPO website established for that purpose. Simultaneously, walk-in customers could purchase printed copies of the document in GPO's main bookstore.

While preserving its capability to produce ink-on-paper, GPO recognizes that demand for electronic products will increase exponentially in the years ahead. The public already downloads over 21 million documents each month through GPO Access [<http://www.access.gpo.gov>], GPO's electronic gateway to more than 160,000 federal titles. The GPO is committed to working with its customers and others to facilitate that change. GPO is itself reaping the benefits of technology and passing the savings along to the American people. The agency accomplishes all these feats with 30% fewer production employees than it had just six years ago.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the dedicated men and women of the digitized Government Printing Office, still better than ever. The article follows:

[From the *In-Plant Graphics*, Dec. 1999]
THE DIGITIZING OF GPO
(By Bob Neubauer)

When the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia prepared to release Judge Thomas P. Jackson's "Findings of Fact" in the Microsoft case in November, the court contacted the U.S. Government Printing Office. GPO was asked to make advance preparations for the rapid dissemination of the document. GPO, as always, was ready for the challenge.

Judge Jackson's decision was announced at 4:30, and the court sent a printed copy and a disk version of the 207-page document to GPO, where print production began immediately. Covers had been produced in advance. By 6:30, when GPO's main bookstore reopened, copies were available. By 8:30, 147 had been sold.

Meanwhile, GPO made the findings available on its Web site in WordPerfect, PDF and HTML formats. It established a URL for this information (usvms.gpo.gov). In the first hour of release, the site experienced 152,000 successful connections.

For GPO, the largest in-plant in the country, such monumental projects have become second nature.

Now in its 139th year of existence, GPO drastically changed itself over the past few years from a strictly ink-on-paper provider to a high-tech digital data delivery organization. The public downloads some 20 million documents a month from GPO Access, GPO's Web site (www.access.gpo.gov).

"We're putting more and more electronic products up, which seems to be what the public wants," notes Public Printer Michael DiMario. He recently signed a request for more Internet bandwidth in the form of a T3 line to accommodate the anticipated demand.

The successful online dissemination of the Microsoft findings was welcome news for those who remember the initial posting of the Starr Report last year, when GPO Access was jammed with traffic, which clogged the system.

"We took certain steps to upgrade the number of T1 lines that we have and install additional servers," notes Andrew M. Sherman, director of congressional, legislative and public affairs. A BigIP load balancer, served by five T1 lines, kept heavy volume from freezing some visitors out.

Over the past few years, Sherman notes, online delivery has helped to decrease print volume—as well as outside procurement. (Also contributing were shrinking government budgets and fewer requested copies.) Concurrently, the skills of GPO's work force have migrated toward the electronic end.

But print is still strong. GPO's two new Krause America LX170 computer-to-plate systems are now up to speed, Sherman says, and they're being used to run plates for all major publications, including the Congressional Record and the Federal Register. The new passport bindery line is operational, as well. And with 7.5 million passports passing through GPO last year, the line has its work cut out for it.

In the next decade, DiMario says, GPO will strengthen its efforts to share its expertise with other government agencies. Already it has expanded its Federal Printing and Electronic Publishing Institute, which offers

courses to help agencies deal with technological changes.

GPO also hopes to provide digital access to even more government documents in the future, he says. As for GPO's size, DiMario doesn't see it changing much. GPO has already downsized dramatically in the 1990s. In 1994 it employed 1,701 production personnel; today there are 1,173.

"We're probably scaled back as much as we can be . . . without some potential problems," observes DiMario. "We've got a very professional work force. The results speak for themselves."

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL MARQUEZ
CERVANTEZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in the near future, I will have the honor of presenting Korean War veteran Manuel Marquez Cervantez with the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with three bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge at my District Office in Montebello, CA.

Mr. Cervantez, born in Clint, TX, and now a resident of Valinda, joined the U.S. Army on May 10, 1951 at the age of 20. After completing his basic training at Camp Roberts, CA, he served in the U.S. Army's 2nd Division during the Korean War. Mr. Cervantez and his platoon fought valiantly on the Korean front lines for eleven and a half months, sustaining many casualties. He was honorably discharged from the Army on November 7, 1956.

Corporal Manuel Cervantez married his wife, Manuela, in 1955 and together they raised six children—Maria, Cecilia, Elizabeth, Frances, Dolores, and Manuel Cervantes II. Manuel and Manuela are the proud grandparents of 17 grandchildren.

I am proud to count Manuel Cervantez as one of my constituents. His bravery, service, and dedication to our great Nation are an inspiration for us all.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION AND
JUDICIAL LIMITATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Partial birth Abortion and Judicial Limitation Act. This bill would, in accordance with article 3, section 2 of our United States Constitution, prohibit federal courts (exclusive of the U.S. Supreme Court) from hearing cases relative to partial birth abortion.

One of the most egregious portions of the Roe versus Wade decision is that the ruling in that case served to substitute the opinions of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

unelected judges for those of state representatives when it comes to making abortion law. By doing this, judges have not merely taken on the role of legislators, they have also thrust the federal apparatus into an area that the founding fathers specifically and exclusively entrusted to state entities. Unfortunately, this aspect of Roe versus Wade has not received the attention that less critical portions of the decision have received.

The legislation I am introducing today is aimed at moving us toward correcting this federal judicial usurpation of constitutionally identified state authority. This legislation is needed now more than ever as certain "lower federal courts" have taken it upon themselves to continue the error-ridden ways of Roe versus Wade by overturning legitimate state restrictions on partial birth abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to review this new legislation and to join me in this battle by cosponsoring this pro-life legislation.

HOME HEATING OIL CRISIS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the northeast States are experiencing—and suffering from—escalating home heating oil prices. I have heard from numerous constituents, including the Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey, small fuel oil dealers, the New Jersey Motor Truck Association, and oilheat consumers affected by this crisis. I commend the administration for releasing \$175 million in emergency LIHEAP funds to date and for working with northeast Congressmembers on this issue. I had written to President Clinton after he released an initial \$45 million in emergency funds, urging him to release additional funds, and I was pleased to learn that an additional \$130 million were subsequently released.

I also have urged the administration to press OPEC and our major foreign suppliers to increase their production of both crude oil and home heating oil exported to the United States in order to address this problem. In addition, I asked that the administration conduct an immediate investigation of alleged price gouging by the oil industry, or at least, that the administration investigate whether or not there was some deliberate attempt by the oil industry to join forces and illegally jack up prices. I also asked the administration to convene an emergency meeting as soon as possible with the major integrated oil companies and with other refiners in order to encourage an immediate increase in refining utilization to produce additional supplies of home heating oil. I understand that crude oil production is down and that there has been a 22-percent reduction in the stocks of distillate fuel oil from last year.

But, more must be done. To this end, I also am organizing, along with my colleague, Representative FOSSELLA, a bipartisan educational briefing, which is being held this Thursday at 3:30 in room HC-8 of the Capitol for Members and staff. The briefing will enable us to discuss longer-term options to prevent these

types of crises in the future and methods for creating greater market certainty.

As the cold weather continues, we must act immediately to combat this crisis facing many American families.

HONORING STEPHAN L. HONORE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Stephan L. Honore for being awarded the Peace Corps' Franklin Williams Award for Outstanding Community Service. Mr. Honore, who was among the first wave of Peace Corps volunteers and the first black American to join the Peace Corps, has distinguished himself as an extraordinary role model for minorities and all young people interested in community service.

After hearing President John F. Kennedy's impassioned vision of young Americans giving service for peace, Mr. Honore answered the call in 1960 by joining the "Peace Corps Council," a student group at Ohio State University. As president of his student body, Mr. Honore had already been given the chance to travel to Cuba as a student where he was forever transformed by witnessing the conditions that his brethren from other countries had to endure daily. Instead of going to Florida during Spring Break as a student his senior year, Mr. Honore helped organize a trip to Washington with the Peace Corps Council where he met with numerous foreign embassies to see what they thought of JFK's vision. He then met with most of the Ohio Congressmen and Senators to lobby on behalf of the Peace Corps.

Mr. Honore's generous spirit and political awakening compelled him to become one of the first wave of 28 trainees-inveites—and the first black American—to work as a Peace Corps volunteer. In 1961 he traveled to Columbia to offer his services in Rural Community Development. Mr. Honore's goal was to help improve living conditions of those living in poverty and hunger and to teach troubled communities how to become self-sufficient. At the same time, Mr. Honore learned much about his own African heritage through working with black Colombians who were descended from escaped slaves.

After a two-year stint in Colombia, Mr. Honore was promoted to Associate Director of the Peace Corps and stationed in the Dominican Republic. He oversaw all Peace Corps volunteers in the Northeast quarter of the Dominican Republic and put his skills to use running vital programs.

Mr. Honore's desire to help others continued when he returned to Ohio from 1968 to 1971 to run a community Health Demonstration Projected and Model Cities Program in blighted communities. He again left for the Dominican Republic to serve as the country's Director from 1978 to 1981. He still keeps close ties to his former co-workers, and is currently Secretary of Friends of the Dominican Republic, an organization of retired Peace Corps members who served in the Dominican Republic.

In between stints of community service, Mr. Honore earned a law degree and held a pro-

fessorship at Texas Southern University from 1974–1984. I am proud to claim him as a constituent living in my 25th Congressional District of Texas. True to his philosophy, he is active in our Houston community, serving as past president of the Diocesan Board of Education and the Woodshire Civic Club, and as organizer of Anti-Apartheid activities in the 1980s, as well as a Precinct Judge. He continues to help people who are caught in the system by representing clients in immigration and political asylum cases, often on a pro bono basis. He recently started his own business as a foreign currency exchange consultant.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stephen L. Honore for receiving an award from the Peace Corps for outstanding service to his community and to Houston. He has not only improved the lives of countless people through his service in foreign lands, the positive impact he has had on the lives of youths in this country and in Houston is immeasurable. He is a true role model for all young people who want to engage in public service.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN G. LEON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Ms. Jean C. Leon.

Jean is recognized in the New York health community for her strong administrative skills. During the 1990's, she held numerous outstanding positions within the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC). She began her tenure with HHC as Assistant Director of Nursing at Woodhull Hospital and Mental Health Center. She then joined Metropolitan Hospital Center as Director of Quality Management. Jean later served as the Deputy Executive Director for AED Quality Management Services. Prior to her current position as the Executive Director of Kings County Hospital Center and Senior Vice President of South Brooklyn—Staten Island Family Health Network, Jean worked as the Chief Operating Officer at Harlem Hospital Center. She has dedicated herself to improving patient care at member facilities and ensuring greater access to health care for the residents of both Brooklyn and Staten Island.

She received her undergraduate degree in health administration from St. Joseph's College and an MPA from New York University's School of Public Administration. Jean holds a certification in Quality Assurance and Nursing Administration and has lectured and consulted extensively in health care. She is a member of the National Association of Health Care Quality and the American College of Health Care Executives and has been the recipients of many awards, including the New York State Quality Assurance Health Care Professional Award in 1995. Jean also served two terms as President of the Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association, the Caribbean Nurses Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance of North America, Inc.

Please join me in recognizing the achievements of Jean G. Leon.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO P. GARCIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in the near future, I will have the honor of presenting World War II veteran Eduardo P. Garcia with the Prisoner of War Medal at my District Office in Montebello, CA.

Mr. Garcia, born and raised in El Paso, TX, and now a resident of East Los Angeles, joined the U.S. Army on August 9, 1943, at the age of 26. After 8 weeks in boot camp, he was assigned to the 180th Infantry regiment, 45th Infantry Division and had his first taste of combat in North Africa. In January 1944, Mr. Garcia's regiment was reassigned to assault the beaches of Anzio, Italy, as part of the Allied effort that eventually ended Mussolini's fascist rule. On May 26 of that year, Mr. Garcia was wounded in battle just outside of Rome. But his wounds did not end his service in the war.

Corporal Eduardo Garcia was released back to his regiment in August 1944 as it began to liberate Southern France. The following month, during an intense battle with many American casualties, his regiment was surrounded by German forces and captured. Mr. Garcia and his comrades were marched to Germany where they were held in a prisoner of war camp. Life in the Nazi POW camp was harsh. Prisoners were given little to eat and were forced, in their weakened condition, to march through the snow from one POW camp to another. Those who fell from exhaustion had to be carried by their fellow soldiers or risk being shot to death by the German guards. After enduring eleven months of Nazi capture, Russian forces freed Eduardo Garcia and his comrades from their POW camp in July 1945.

Corporal Eduardo Garcia was discharged from the U.S. Army on October 31, 1945. He was decorated with the European, African, and Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, the Good Conduct medal, and the Purple Heart.

Eduardo Garcia went on to marry his late wife, Carmen, and raise four children. Since 1962, he has lived in Los Angeles and now has eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I am proud to count Eduardo Garcia as one of my constituents. His bravery, service, and dedication to our great nation are an inspiration for us all.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
FREEDOM ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricul-

tural education program. Think of this for a moment, these kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them.

It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in this Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

CELEBRATING THE 150-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH**HON. MERRILL COOK**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the University of Utah on their 150th Anniversary. On February 28, 1850, the Utah State Assembly ordained the University of the State of Deseret, better known today as the University of Utah. Since its creation, the University of Utah has conferred over 180,000 degrees, making it the state's most profuse provider of higher education. In addition to its educational excellence, the University of Utah is also a leader in cultural, social, scientific, economic, medical, and artistic contributions. I would like to take this time to honor the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Utah for enriching the great State of Utah and the Nation.

From its early years as the first university established west of the Missouri River, the University of Utah has been the meeting place for great ideas. Today with undergraduate and graduate enrollment nearing 26,000, and students representing all 29 Utah counties, all 50 states and 102 foreign countries, I am proud to say that the University of Utah is indeed a diverse population. Coupled with its dynamic student population, is the University's excellent academic offerings. I would like to take the time to mention a few of the numerous programs which deserve recognition.

The College of Fine Arts has the nation's first college ballet degree program, and Utah's only doctoral program in Music. The College of Law is Utah's only LL.M. degree and graduate certificate in land, resources, and environmental law. The School of Medicine is the only medical school in the Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana region. The College of Science is home to Utah's only Bioscience Undergraduate Research Program and Ph.D.

in chemical physics, as well as the only Cooperative Education Program in mathematics with the Navajo Indian Reservation at Monument Valley High School. The School of Mines and Earth Sciences is Utah's only baccalaureate and graduate programs in geophysics, meteorology, and geological, metallurgical and mining engineering. In research, the Energy and Geoscience Institute is the world's leading research center in geothermal energy. The Huntsman Cancer Institute is forging new ways to diagnose, treat, cure and prevent cancer using expertise in genetics and related scientific fields. And finally, the University of Utah's athletes and teams, have won 75 national championships and 51 conference team championships since 1983.

This topic I share today is very dear to me, because in 1969 I graduated from the University of Utah. Also, my father was the head of the department metallurgy. As I reflect on my alma mater, I see that the University of Utah is a place that shapes young minds and where students launch their educational endeavor. I would describe my academic experience as eye opening, similar to someone opening a fire hydrant of knowledge, and telling me it is OK to take a drink. My experiences extended beyond the classroom; I recall meeting with friends in the Union Building, studying on the lawn, or taking a walk along President's Circle, and of course, U of U athletic games. I am proud to be a part of the University's educational excellence and am honored to speak upon it on its 150-year anniversary.

HONORING THE AFRICAN WES-
LEYAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH ON THEIR 234TH ANNI-
VERSARY CELEBRATION**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church (known as Bridge Street AWME Church) on their 234th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed something tremendous that should be honored.

This historic institution, now entering its third century of service to the church and community, has always focused on providing spiritual, social, educational, and recreational activities for the Bridge Street parishioner and for the community at large. This church, located in the heart of the Bedford Stuyvesant community, has a long proud history of overcoming adversity to continue to survive.

The earliest records of the church date back to 1766 when a British captain named Thomas Webb began holding open air services in downtown Brooklyn. Captain Webb was a convert of John Wesley, the father of Methodism in America. In 1794 the congregation purchased the land on which they held these open air services from a wealthy Brooklyn landowner named Joshua Sands. Later a small church was built, and as was the custom in those days to name streets and buildings after wealthy landowners, the church was named The Sands Street Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation consisted of whites, free blacks, and ex-slaves. The ability of blacks and whites to worship together in

the beginning of the church's history fore-shadow its unique ability to overcome any challenge it may face.

By the end of the 19th century, the AWME church had survived almost two centuries of struggles, disappointments and oppression. From its origins in 1766, the AWME Church has been a standard bearer for the family of man, especially in the Brooklyn-Long Island area. From Sands Street, to High Street, to Bridge Street, and to Stuyvesant Avenue, the Church has overcome every major obstacle encountered on its Christian journey.

From its pulpit, some of the greatest preachers and orators of the last two centuries have challenged many to higher heights and consistently championed the cause for all men to exist as children of God equal to one another. Throughout the years, the AWME church has made lasting and significant contributions, not only to education and religion, but to every other major profession which helps to shape the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker they are indeed a "Great People, and a Great Church, Serving a Great God."

REPORT FILING FOR H.R. 701

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I filed the bill report for H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999. This bill represented an agreement fashioned after five days of Resource Committee hearings and months of Member negotiations. On November 10, 1999, the Resources Committee ordered this historic measure out of Committee by a bipartisan vote of 37-12.

This legislation is the most comprehensive conservation and recreation legislation the Congress has considered in decades and provides permanent funding for valuable conservation and recreational opportunities that will benefit the lives of all Americans.

Title I provides \$1 billion each year to create a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of OCS activities and provide funds for the conservation of coastal ecosystems. Several provisions ensure that the valuable funding provided by this title does not prove to be an incentive for additional oil and gas drilling, especially in areas subject to pre-leasing, leasing, or development moratorium. The intent of this legislation is to provide for conservation and recreational opportunities, and the authors and supporters deliver on that pledge.

Title II provides \$900 million to guarantee stable and annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized level. This dedicated funding would provide for both the state and federal programs included in the LWCF, while protecting the rights of private property owners. Even with the protections won during our negotiations, some feel this bill does not adequately address property rights. While not eliminating land acquisition nor the Land and Water Conservation Fund, H.R. 701 creates a Federal land acquisition process and provides safeguards to private land owners that dramatically improve the status quo.

Title III provides \$350 million for wildlife conservation and education. This title, crafted by Congressman DINGELL and myself, uses the successful mechanism within the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly known as Pittman-Robertson). The new source of funding will nearly double the historic contribution made by sportsmen through Federal funds available by Pittman-Robertson and the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act (commonly known as Dingell-Johnson). Since 1937, these programs have contributed more than \$5 billion, matched by the states, to benefit wildlife and fish.

Title IV provides \$125 million to be used for matching grants for local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities, and provide for the development of improved recreation programs, sites and facilities.

Title V provides \$100 million for the programs within the Historic Preservation Act, including grants to the States, maintaining the National Register of Historic Places, and administering numerous historic preservation programs, including support for Congressionally authorized Heritage areas and corridors.

Title VI provides \$200 million for a coordinated program on Federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources that are threatened with degradation, and protect public health and safety.

Title VII provides \$150 million for annual and dedicated funding for conservation easements and funding for landowner incentives to aid in the recovery of endangered and threatened species.

Since oil and gas royalty payments are not deposited into the federal Treasury as an end-of-year lump sum, revenue held within the "CARA Fund" accrues interest. Up to \$200 million of this annual interest will match, dollar for dollar, the amount appropriated during the annual Congressional Appropriations process for the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes and Refuge Revenue Sharing programs. This provision is intended to fully fund these two programs.

Because of the breath of this measure, H.R. 701 enjoys the support of 294 Members of Congress. These supporters range from the most southern areas of Florida to my most Northern home of Alaska. Countless governors, county commissioners, and mayors have rallied around this initiative. I hope that the Congressional Leadership joins with us to pass this historic bill into Law this year.

HONORING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELLAIRE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the First Baptist Church of Bellaire for 60 years of service.

The First Baptist Church of Bellaire is proud of its reputation as a church where congregants can worship in a friendly atmosphere that is especially supportive of families.

Established in 1940, First Baptist Church of Bellaire now exceeds 500 members who participate in the various musical programs, youth and children's ministries, activities for seniors and singles, support of foreign missions, and more. One to its finest ministries is the Bellaire

Christian Academy, which takes students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade.

The First Baptist Church of Bellaire is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, which supports 4,000 international missionaries. It is also affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Houston-area Union Baptist Association. More than ten percent of the church's annual budget is dedicated to the support of missionaries.

The driving force behind much of what goes on at the first Baptist church of Bellaire is Pastor Frank D. Minton of Wichita, Kansas. Pastor Minton came out of pastoral retirement from the First Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska to join the First Baptist Church of Bellaire in 1995. He has put First Baptist Church of Bellaire on the move. The Church building has a new look, a new orchestra in the Worship Service, and increased children's and outreach ministries.

His credentials include a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Divinity from the University of Oklahoma, and another Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. His book, "Baseball's Sermon on the Mount," published by Broadman Press, combines his seminary training with his baseball experience. He has also served or led assorted pastors' conferences and outreach programs. Minton and his wife, Joyce, have four and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, our community institutions are only as strong as its members, and the members of the First Baptist Church of Bellaire have in a short sixty years established a very important cornerstone of the Greater Bellaire Community. I congratulate all the members of the First Baptist Church of Bellaire on their 60th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family I was unable to attend votes recently. Had I been here I would have made the following votes: Rollcall No. 8—"aye"; No. 9—"aye"; No. 10—"aye"; No. 11—"aye"; No. 12—"aye"; No. 13—"aye"; No. 14—"aye"; No. 15—"aye"; No. 16—"aye"; No. 17—"aye"; No. 18—"aye"; No. 19—"aye"; No. 20—"aye"; No. 21—"aye"; No. 22—"aye"; No. 23—"no"; No. 24—"aye"; No. 25—"no".

TRIBUTE TO LEOLA HAGEMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to an extraordinary woman and member of our community, a constituent of the 15th Congressional District in New York from the time I was first elected. Leola Hageman, who died on February 1, served her community over the last 40 years with energy, dedication, intelligence, creativity and love. Her passing is an enormous loss for the

people of our community, New York City and the United States.

Leola Hageman moved from her native Chicago to New York City in 1959, with her husband, the Reverend Lynn Hageman, and their three children, Erica, Hans and Ivan. In 1963, Reverend Hageman founded an experimental narcotics program at Exodus House on East 103rd Street, and Leola Hageman worked with him as his full and indispensable partner. The program served thousands of addicts with exceptional rates of success.

Mrs. Hageman's contribution to our community by her work at Exodus House, without more, would already have been substantial. However, Mrs. Hageman demonstrated her exceptional energy, courage, intelligence and constructive spirit in a myriad of ways.

One particular project drew her attention and efforts for more than 30 years: improving the education for the children of our community. In the late 1960's, she worked tirelessly for the creation of local school boards, part of a decentralization plan to improve education in communities throughout the city by appointing people to the boards who would represent their communities. These boards helped to change the direction and conscience of the city and well beyond.

Later, in the early 1980's, when Reverend Hageman suffered an illness and was no longer able to carry on leadership of Exodus House, Leola Hageman opened a facility for children, including children of drug addicts, to come after school. Once again, well ahead of her time, Mrs. Hageman recognized the dangers of children being out on the streets in the afternoons after school and before their parents came home with nothing to do—and created a safe and constructive environment for them to come to at Exodus House. The seed that Mrs. Hageman planted with that program has now blossomed into the East Harlem School at Exodus House, a highly successful middle school founded by Reverend and Mrs. Hageman's two sons. The East Harlem School is now in its ninth year of operation, providing an exceptional educational experience to its students.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Leola Hageman, and only a little more than a year ago her husband, the Reverend Lynn Hageman, leaves an enormous void in our community. Their lives epitomized the finest dedication to service and "tough love"—as one alumnus of Exodus House put it at a recent memorial service for Mrs. Hageman. The example of the way Leola and Lynn Hageman chose to live their lives in dedication to others should serve as an inspiration and a challenge to each of us now and in the years to come.

HONORING ANGELA HOWE ANDERSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the hard work of Angela Howe Anderson.

Angela is a true immigrant success story. After arriving in the U.S. in 1979 from Trinidad, Angela began working for Bloomingdale's department store. However, she remained there for only three months before moving to

St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. Angela has remained with the New York hospital industry since 1979. She is currently on the staff of Brookdale Hospital Medical Center where she is in charge of processing applications for patients in need of medical assistance. One of ten children, Angela received encouragement from her mother, Myrtle, to continue her education once she immigrated to the United States. To that end, she has pursued college courses at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her daughter Sharla is also attending college.

Angela has been married to Maurice Anderson since 1992. She remains a shining example of the rich contributions made to this nation by many immigrants. Please join me in recognizing the achievements of Angela Howe Anderson.

HONORING MATTHEW ERIC BLACK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special young man, Matthew Eric Black, from Lakeport, CA. Matthew lost his life in the line of duty while attempting to suppress a wild-land fire on June 23, 1999.

Matthew Black, the proud son of Jo Ann and Gerry Gettman, was born on July 18 1978. He was the beloved brother of Michael and Mark, a quadriplegic, who he was devoted to, his fiancée, Jamie Bartko, sister-in-law, Denise, an aunt and uncle, Bonnie and Danny Black, a great aunt, Virginia Thompson, and his grandmother, Ilean Mason. He graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1997 where he loved playing sports including wrestling, track, and football. He was named MVP in a coed youth soccer league and played ice hockey for the Belmont Rangers, Level A Division, and won a state championship with them in 1994.

Having a desire to help people, Matthew joined the city of Lakeport Fire Department as a volunteer and was a former member of the Lake County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program. When Matthew was in high school he wrote an essay for a school project called Roots and Wings which laid out his dream to be a firefighter. It said in part:

My future is approaching real fast. I have thoughts about what I am going to do and the skills that I will need to do them. My goals are to graduate and go to junior college majoring in fire science and to go on and become a firefighter. . . . I have always wanted to be a firefighter for as long as I can remember.

Matthew Black wanted to save lives and to change lives for the better. He was a strong individual who enriched so many lives with his caring, compassionate, loving feelings. When someone was sad or angry, he would lift them up by making them laugh and feel better. He was an unselfish young man who, when he saw a need, delivered. He is often remembered for giving a young mother his bike for her son when she expressed she could not afford one.

To honor the remarkable life of this special man, the community of Lake County will be

recognizing him at the 2000 Stars of Lake County Community Awards ceremony on Sunday evening, February 20, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the life of Matthew Eric Black for his outstanding and unselfish manner in which he lived his life. He set an example for all of us to live by.

PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JOHN CAR- DINAL O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor. As the leader of the largest Archdiocese in the nation, Cardinal O'Connor has been an active participant in the debate of the role of the Church and the role of society in helping those who cannot care for themselves. In that vein, the Cardinal has always embodied the Biblical passage of the Good Samaritan. In both his words and actions, Cardinal O'Connor has clearly demonstrated his devotion to the teachings of Christ and his spirit of the principles of this passage.

He has not only spoken out on the care for the elderly, the sick and the poor of New York; he has acted.

He has used not only his pulpit to teach the word of Christ but also the true meaning of those words.

He was one of the first Church officials to recognize the horrible toll of the AIDS epidemic and used his moral authority to open New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Claire's Hospital. Additionally, he also provided compassion through words and actions and made it known that everyone was a child of God and was deserving of love, compassion and respect.

He continued to work to strengthen the relations between those followers of his flock and the followers of the Jewish faith, recognizing the power of the inter-faith alliance.

He is a man who has dedicated his life to helping lift others up, all the while never seeking out worldly possessions or public accolades. These are some of the reasons I support this Honor today. But there are others—many more personal.

In my family, three of my relatives received the divine calling to dedicate themselves to the Lord's work. My uncle, Father John Crowley, is currently the Pastor of St. John of the Cross Church in Vero Beach, FL. Another uncle, Father Paul Murphy is a Catholic priest in Philadelphia. A member of the Vincennes order, he, like Father Crowley, has been inspired by Cardinal O'Connor and view him as a personal figure of inspiration. My aunt, Sister Mary Rose Crowley, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame, is based in West Palm Beach, and she too, has reflected upon the power, grace and compassion of the Cardinal.

These people, all dedicated to the teachings of Christ, have received both encouragement and guidance from the Cardinal. The Cardinal has always served as a role model of conduct and solid Christian behavior for my relatives and for thousands of other Catholics, not only

New York but throughout the nation and the world.

As the leader of the New York's Catholics, he has also been influential in establishing and maintaining a series of high quality, Catholic schools throughout the city. As a graduate of parochial schools, I have been brought up with the values of the Cardinal and the Bible, and I hope that I will be able to instill these same values of family and faith into my son, Cullen, who was baptized recently in the Catholic faith.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to this great man, John Cardinal O'Connor.

May God Bless him as he undertakes his next challenge, that of battling cancer.

WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, which I have introduced with several of my Colleagues, amends the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell Johnson Act regarding the use of funds to administer those Acts. This bill will maintain the integrity of the two Acts by ensuring that funds used for "true administration" will be used responsibly and that funds not used for "true administration" will pass to the States for restoration projects that benefit fish and wildlife as required under the law. It will ensure that the millions of excise tax dollars from guns, ammo, archery equipment, and fishing equipment paid by sportsmen and sportswomen will go to the States for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects.

During three Congressional oversight hearings in 1999, the House Committee on Resources uncovered numerous spending improprieties involving wildlife and sport fish administrative funds by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Federal Aid. As much as one-half of the "administration" money may have been improperly used. This was the first time since Pittman-Robertson was passed in 1937, and since Dingell-Johnson was passed in 1950, that the administration of these Acts has been examined by Congress. Officials testifying from the non-partisan General Accounting Office were critical of the management of administrative funds by the Division of Federal Aid, stating that "the combined experience of the audit team that did this work represents about 160 years worth of audit experience. To our knowledge, this is, if not the worst, one of the worst managed programs we have encountered."

The trust has been broken between the sportsmen and sportswomen who fund the Acts through excise taxes and the Fish and Wildlife Service who were responsible for administering the Acts. At each of these hearings we learned that administrative funds were used for expenses unrelated to the administration of the Acts. We learned that administrative funds that were used for administration of the Acts were not used responsibly. We learned that if the administration of these Acts

is not properly implemented, the State wildlife and sport fish restoration suffers.

Some internal changes have already been made by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Division of Federal Aid to address the abuses of administrative funds and we are encouraged that steps are being taken toward fixing the problems. But these are only steps, they are not permanent. Legislation is needed to clearly explain how administrative funds can and cannot be spent. In addition to taking initiative to make changes in the Division of Federal Aid, I am pleased that the Administration has been involved in working with us on this bill. The millions of dollars sportsmen and sportswomen have paid in excise taxes have to be protected. This bill offers them that much needed protection. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this measure and I intend on taking deliberate action to move this bill in my committee in March.

THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY ACT (H.R. 6)

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on the Marriage Tax Penalty Act (H.R. 6). Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye." The bill passed the House with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 268-158.

I firmly believe that this Congress should enact some common sense tax reform—including ending this unfair burden on married taxpayers. Since coming to Congress, I have cosponsored legislation to address this inequity because I know that this is something we must fix. It is unfair that some couples pay an average of \$1400 more in taxes simply because they are married. So I am pleased that we can offer this common sense relief for American families.

But while I would have supported this bill, we can improve upon it as it makes its way through the legislative process. Specifically, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to middle class families who are currently saddled by the marriage penalty. This will bring relief to those Americans who most need it, and free up additional resources for other critical priorities—paying down the national debt, modernizing Medicare, saving Social Security, and making investments in education, health care, the environment, and national defense.

S.S. OSAN, DELHI MASSACRE VICTIM, DENIED JUSTICE BY INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with yet another example of how India violates the basic human rights of its minorities and ignores the rule of law.

Sukhbir Singh Osan is a journalist in Punjab. He has exposed many scandals and acts of tyranny on the part of the Indian govern-

ment and the government of Punjab. His family suffered losses in the 1984 massacre in Delhi, which were organized by government-inspired mobs while the Sikh police were locked in their barracks and the state-run TV and radio called for more Sikh blood. He has now filed suit for his rights as a 1984 riot victim.

Sukhbir Singh Osan earned an LL.B. degree from Punjab University seven years ago but it is being withheld from him because he has exposed corruption and brutality. For his aggressive reporting, the Indian government has damaged his career in an arbitrary and vindictive manner.

Mr. Osan's situation proves that in "democratic" India the law is subservient to the wishes of those in power. The people in power routinely violate the law for their own benefit. How can a country be a democracy when the government routinely subverts the rule of law?

It is clear from the treatment of Mr. Osan and from so many other incidents involving the abuse of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities that the only way these minorities will secure their freedom to live in peace, dignity, and security is by achieving their freedom from India. In this light, it is appropriate for the United States to take action to protect the rights of the minority peoples of the subcontinent.

If India cannot observe the rule of law even for a victim of the 1984 Delhi massacres, then why should it receive any aid from the American taxpayers? We should stop that aid, subject India to the sanctions that their terrorist rule deserves, and throw the full weight of the U.S. Congress behind a free and fair, internationally-supervised plebiscite to decide the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations of South Asia.

Until these things are done, there will continue to be others mistreated like Sukhbir Singh Osan, and worse. America is the beacon of freedom. How can we accept this?

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Burning Punjab article on Mr. Osan's plight into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Burning Punjab News]

RIOTS RUINED FAMILY, JUDICIARY HIS LIFE

Chandigarh—Sukhbir Singh Osan in a Civil Writ petition No. 14940 of 1999 filed in the Punjab & Haryana High Court has pleaded that—"he became a 'November 84 riot victim' neither by his own act nor by birth since he was just 14 years old when riots took place. He further pleaded that the failure of the executive and the law & order situation and also the failure of various provisions incorporated in the Indian Constitution, after the assassination of the then Indian Premier Indira Gandhi was the reason which placed him under the category of 'Sikh Migrant Family & Riot affected person'". The petition has been fixed for hearing on November 15, 1999 before the Chief Justice Arun B. Saharia and Mr. Justice Swatantar Kumar. Osan has demanded 'justice' in this petition.

"Punishing those who were responsible for riots in November, 1984 and to grant certain concessions to the victims of these riots are two different things?", Sukhbir Singh Osan has questioned the division bench of the High Court. The petition elaborates, how a riot victim in Sukhbir Singh Osan was harassed, his career was ruined in an arbitrary and vindictive manner and that too right under the nose of judiciary shows that justice in India is not a virtue which transcends

all barriers. It also proves that law never bends before justice on the land of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Sri Guru Teg Bahadar and Sri Guru Gobind Singh.

Why Sukhbir Singh Osan's result/degree of LL.B. course is being withheld by the Punjab University for the past about seven years is a pathetic story because he in the capacity of a journalist tried to expose corruption, high-handedness and other irregularities at different levels in the University affairs through his dispatches in a leading daily during 1991.

Narrating chronology of his 'ordeal' Sukhbir Singh Osan in a writ petition filed by him 'in-person' in the Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that in August, 1990 he was granted admission in LL.B. course under the Riot affected (November, 1984) category in the Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Being a journalist he in good faith published certain news items pertaining to nefarious activities including corruption, high-handedness, moral turpitude and other irregularities at different levels in the university affairs. Smitten by a news-item, Sukhbir Singh was asked by Dr. R.K. Bangia, Prof. & Chairman, Department of Laws in a written communication on May 29, 1991 'to furnish some authentic proof as evidence of the facts as stated by you' in the news-item 'Teen Hazaar Mein Uttirne Karva Date Hain Kanoon Ki Pariksha' otherwise strict action would be taken against him. On September 30, 1991 in an arbitrary and illegal manner his admission was cancelled when he was studying in the 3rd semester of the LL.B. course, since Dr. J.M. Jairath, Dr. R.K. Bangia and Dr. R.S. Grewal were got annoyed due to news reports filed by S.S. Osan. Sukhbir Singh Osan approached the Punjab & Haryana High Court against the Panjab University, but the High Court relegate him for his remedy to Civil Court. The Civil Court of Chandigarh after four years of hectic activities of examining evidence and witnesses termed the admission of Sukhbir Singh Osan as genuine and according to law. The judge in his 27 page order also declared Sukhbir Singh Osan as 'November 84 riot victim'. It was perhaps the first ever case in the history of India and Indian judiciary, that a riot victim was asked to prove that he is a 'November 1984 Riot affected person' and Sukhbir Singh Osan has proved the same in the civil court. Here it is pertinent to mention that Sukhbir Singh Osan along with his family migrated from Madhya Pradesh to Punjab in the year 1985 after November 1984 anti-Sikh riot which broke through out India after the assassination of the then Indian premier Indira Gandhi. Such was the agony of Sukhbir Singh Osan that he has to recall all those days, which his family has suffered during 1984.

The miserable plight of Sukhbir Singh Osan proves that in India law and judiciary are not meant for those who obey them but are subservient to those who outrage the modesty of the very concept of law & justice and that too, in connivance of those who are considered to be the custodian of law & justice. Will the law of India be able to punish those who have ruined the life of Sukhbir Singh Osan? Whither Indian Judiciary?

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ARTHUR WILKOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a veteran political leader of our

9th Congressional District. Arthur Wilkowski, former state legislator and judge, passed from this life on November 30, 1999 at the age of 70 years.

After teaching for many years and eventually earning a law degree from the University of Toledo in 1959, Art began his foray into politics the hard way. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1960 and Toledo City Council in 1963. In 1969, after gaining appointment to the Ohio House Representatives he battled his way to re-election, and held the position until his resignation in 1983. Throughout his tenure in the Ohio General Assembly, and later during brief stints as a federal judge and magistrate, Art was widely regarded as among the finest of orators and his speeches were well known. Former colleague Barney Quilter, Speaker Pro Tempore, recalled "When he spoke on the floor of the House, everybody listened. They knew they would know more than when the speech started." Current Ohio House Minority Leader Jack Ford "was in awe of the former legislator's talent" though he did not serve with him. "He would do everything from a little Shakespeare to language from the Founding Fathers," Representative Ford said.

Art Wilkowski championed causes near and dear to him, regardless of controversy or popularity. He worked tirelessly on many different issues, but was most devoted to the creation of the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corp and the development of a high-speed passenger rail system. In his tribute to Art, Mr. Quilter noted, "He took his ideas and turned them into law in Columbus. He was probably the brightest person I knew in the legislature." Perhaps the highest praise comes from long-time consumer advocate and community leader Mike Ferner who commented, "He was uncommonly courageous. A lot of people will remark on his oratorical skills, but to me, his courage and integrity were more significant."

Choosing to resign from the Ohio General Assembly in July of 1983, Art wrote that "public service was the fulfillment of all my boyhood dreams and aspirations, as such related to a productive life." Though his presence and skill were sorely missed in the Ohio House of Representatives, he was able to resume his law practice in Toledo's Polish Village taking on more legal work on behalf of clients who could not pay a cent for his brilliant work, serve an appointment to the 6th District Court of Appeals, and write. He was serving on the Lucas County Probate Court as Magistrate at the time of his death.

Art Wilkowski was genuine and generous, and a man committed to his ideals. He will be missed not only by his family, but our community as well. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his children Kathy, Craig, and Keith, grandchildren, and sisters Helen, Wanda, and Olga. May fond memories of the precious gift of Art's life sustain them.

PROVIDING OUR VETERANS DIGNITY IN DEATH: THE VETERANS BURIAL BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, since the early days of this century, it has been Federal policy

to insure a proper, dignified burial for veterans who are qualified to receive a VA pension or compensation. Today, I will introduce legislation to insure that after years of inadequate support this policy is actually implemented.

Ever since veterans were first provided with a burial allowance following World War I, the benefit has been slowly eroding. If the original allowance were adjusted for inflation, the \$100 World War I benefit would total over \$1,000 today. The \$150 benefit provided after World War II would total over \$850 today. The \$300 benefit that has been provided since 1978, the last time the benefit was increased, would total over \$700 today if it were adjusted for inflation. Today, however, veterans' families receive exactly what they would have received 22 years ago—\$300—a fraction of the cost of even the most basic memorial. Our veterans deserve better.

The Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act enhances the current, insufficient burial allowance, providing \$1,000 to each qualified veteran. This brings the benefit in line with Congress' original intent—allowing veterans' families to provide our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines with dignity in death. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by co-sponsoring this important initiative.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3670

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to enhance the protection of the Great Lakes, and to begin the cleanup of our industrial legacy. My bill will reauthorize the Great Lakes Program of the Environmental Protection Agency, significantly increasing the authorization for this highly successful program, and authorize the funding for cleanup of contaminated Areas of Concern as provided in the President's budget.

The Great Lakes are the Nation's largest fresh water resource and the largest system of fresh water on Earth, containing nearly 20 percent of the world supply. The Great Lakes contain 5,500 cubic miles of water and cover 94,000 square miles. Only the polar ice caps contain more fresh water.

Great Lakes Basin is of critical importance to the economy of two nations. The Basin is home to more than one-tenth of the U.S. population, and one-quarter of the Canadian population. One of the world's largest concentrations of economic capacity is located in the Basin—some one-fifth of U.S. industrial jobs and one-quarter of Canadian agricultural production.

Notwithstanding the immense size of the Lakes, outflows from the Lakes are less than 1 percent per year. When pollutants enter the lakes by pipe, as wet weather runoff, or as air deposition, they are retained in the system and become more concentrated with time. They settle in the sediments, and accumulate in the food chain.

We may have restored certain fisheries, such as walleyes in Lake Erie, but these fish still bear the burden of pollution and contamination sediments. Fish continue to be found with cancers and sores and high levels of PCBs and dioxin. If you eat fish once a week

and live within 20 miles of one of the Great Lakes, you are likely to have 440 parts per billion PCBs in your body. That is more than 20 times higher than people living elsewhere in America and not exposed to Great Lakes fish.

It is past time that we aggressively clean up the persistent pollution captured in the sediments of the Great Lakes. The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act established the Great Lakes National Program Office and called for a demonstration project for the removal of toxic pollutants from sediments. The Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 required the establishment and implementation of Great Lakes water quality guidance. Now we should permanently address the problem of contaminated sediment.

The United States and Canada have jointly identified 43 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Thirty-one of these fall wholly or partly in U.S. waters. Even though over 1.3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been remediated over the past 3 years, the challenge is so great that remediation is not complete at any U.S. Area of Concern.

The bill I am introducing today, in support of the President's budget proposal, represents a dramatic increase in support for Great Lakes' states and communities. This bill will:

Reauthorize the Great Lakes Program at \$40 million annually for 2001–2005.

Authorize \$50 million annually for 2001–2005 for projects to improve water quality at Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. The federal share would be 60%.

Amend the current Great Lakes Program to authorize projects to improve degraded fresh water estuary habitat. The federal share would be 65%.

I will be working toward the swift enactment of this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in protecting this precious fresh water resource.

HONORING G. THOMAS MILLER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to public service in the community.

G. Thomas Miller, married 33 years to his wife, Carmen, and has four grown children, is a devoted family man who has been recognized time and again for his outstanding achievements and service. Inspired by his Catholic faith, he has made a positive difference in the lives of literally thousands of people.

Tom began his service to the community 31 years ago with the Catholic Community Services of Nevada, now known as Catholic Charities. For twenty-three of his years at Catholic Charities, Tom worked as the Executive Director. Tom began the Meals and Wheels program, and initiated several other senior programs and youth programs, such as the Holy Family and Henderson Day Care Centers, and the Sunrise Boy Ranch.

In addition to his post at Catholic Charities, Tom committed his time to various groups such as the Knights of Columbus #2828, Las Vegas Rotary Club, and as a lector for St.

Ann'e Catholic Church, to name only a few. Tom's dedication and devotion to the community was evident in positions he assumed as a Board Member of National Catholic Charities, and of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. Tom has also been appointed to state-wide commissions by three Nevada Governors.

Tom has attributed his work and successes to the late Monsignor Charles Shallow, who encouraged him to come and work for Catholic Charities in Las Vegas.

Tom's most recent honor was bestowed upon him by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who offered Tom an apostolic papal blessing for all of his good works and deeds for the poor and youth of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great Nevadan and a great American, Tom Miller, for his commitment to our communities, and his ability to spread peace and kindness through service to the community.

HONORING COACH MARIJON ANCICH

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Coach Marijon Ancich. It may come as no surprise to the students and faculty at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, California, nor in fact, to those in the entire southland who follow high school sports, that one of their own has won the NFL/KABC High School Coach of the Year Award. This award is given to the high school coach who best exemplifies the meaning of sports and who goes above and beyond the call of duty. That only begins to describe the life and career of this year's most deserving recipient.

At age five, during the height of World War II, Marijon Ancich fled Yugoslavia with his mother and brother to escape the advancing German army. They arrived in New York, but it would be seven years later that his family moved and eventually settled in Southern California. Little did the twelve-year-old Marijon know that he would someday, touch the lives of thousands of young men. Believing in sports as more than just a game, Coach Ancich instilled in his players a set of values and ethics that would help prepare them for the world. Over a hundred of his players have become coaches around the country and he has helped over two hundred students win athletic scholarships that enabled them to attend some of the most prestigious universities in America.

In his 37 years as a dedicated football coach, Marijon Ancich has brought home three California Interscholastic Federation championships, and his record of over 300 wins makes him one of only two coaches to have reached that milestone in the history of California high school football. For those who know Coach Marijon Ancich, this award is long over due. But to say that this latest accolade is the culmination of all his hard work would be a disservice. For the people of St. Paul High School know there is more to the coach than the awards on his mantle. To them, he is a man who is active in the community, a man

devoted to his beautiful wife Jacquie, and father to seven wonderful children. He is one of their own: a man who truly exemplifies the very finest traditions and values of the American family and the American sportsman.

It is with deep respect for his many outstanding achievements and the tremendous contributions he has made to countless young people throughout his illustrious career that I commend him and thank him on the floor of the House of Representatives and further extend our warmest wishes to him and his fine family for every continued happiness and success.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, recently, the world's oldest democracy, the United States, and the world's largest democracy, India, jointly agreed to work together to fight a common enemy—international terrorism. The agreement between our nation and India is a recognition that terrorism is a worldwide threat that singles out those nations who have consistently followed the democratic path. It is also recognition that we face a common foe—Osama bin Laden.

The joint agreement to work together represents not only a combining of effort but represents as well as new area of cooperation between our two nations. This agreement builds on the strong relations existing between the United States and India.

Just last week here in Washington, the first tangible expression of the joint agreement became evident. Representatives from the two countries held their first meeting as part of the Joint Working Group on Terrorism (JWG) under the leadership of the Department of State and India's Ministry of External Affairs. Other organizations represented at the meeting included the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, India's Home Ministry and its Intelligence Bureau.

According to the JWG, the first joint action is to apprehend and bring to trial the hijackers of Indian Airlines Flight 814 who used innocent civilians as bargaining chips to further their terrorist ends. But the working group has a larger agenda, eradicating terrorism and those who sponsor or finance it.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker to applaud our joint efforts with India. This is an initiative that is long overdue. If their efforts result in success, whether in the capture of the Indian Airlines hijackers, or in the reduction of terrorism itself, the citizenry of our two democracies, and the citizens of all the world's democracies, will be well served.

TRIBUTE TO JACK GIBSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who is a dear friend of mine,

Jack Gibson, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Jack Gibson has served the state of Arkansas and his country all of his life. After completing his secondary education in Louisiana, he became a naval aviator and flew in the carrier task force during World War II. After the war, he returned to the United States and finished college at Mississippi State University. He entered business with his father where they operated a farm, cotton gin, and an agricultural spraying business.

Through his years in Arkansas, Jack has been active in state, civic and community life and has always worked to represent agriculture, the greatest profession there ever was. He is a former director of Chicot County Soil Conservation District and served as the president of the Southeast Arkansas Soil Conservation District. He was also chairman and the original member of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He served as president and member of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas and president of the Arkansas Conservation Districts. Jack also served as president and CEO of two community banks in Southeast Arkansas and has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1948.

As State Senator from District 35 for 12 years, Jack held chairmanships on the Agriculture and Economic Development Committees, and the Legislative Audit. During his tenure in the Arkansas legislature, he was also a member of the Legislative Joint Budget, Legislative Council, and Revenue and Taxation Committees. He has been affiliated with the Farm Credit System for 39 years and served on both the PCA and FBL boards, as well as the Sixth District Advisory Board. Jack is currently the executive director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.

Jack Gibson resides in Boydel, Arkansas, the town where he was born. He has devoted his life to agriculture and Arkansas and the world is a better place because of his service. I am proud to call him my friend and I wish him a happy 80th birthday and many more years of happiness.

ELIMINATE THE TRICARE PRIME COPAY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents on a daily basis who are concerned about the availability and affordability of military health care. On February 1, I introduced H.R. 3565 to eliminate the copayment requirement for Tricare Prime and to make military health care more affordable.

Retirees pay an annual enrollment fee for coverage and are also subject to copayment requirements. Active duty families do not pay an enrollment fee, but are also subject to copayments. I am concerned that these copays can dramatically increase overall health care costs, particularly for retirees on a fixed income or for younger enlisted personnel. At \$6 to \$12 a visit, these copays quickly erode the real progress Congress made last year approving a long overdue increase in military pay. Unless we reduce out-of-pocket costs for

military personnel, pay raises only help on the margin.

The legislation also addresses a question of fairness. The downsizing of military treatment facilities often makes it difficult for Tricare Prime enrollees to get appointments which would not require a copay. But if enrollees urgently need an appointment, and elect to go to a civilian provider, they face copayments, creating an inequity and a potentially pernicious disincentive to receiving timely care. My bill has a further policy justification as the Department of Defense has indicated that the Tricare Prime program is the most cost-effective Tricare option. Eliminating the copay creates an incentive for additional enrollment in Tricare, which ultimately saves taxpayer dollars.

The Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2001, which was released at the beginning of this week, generally supports my proposal. The DOD bill would eliminate copays for service members and dependents using civilian facilities, but doesn't address the equally large retired population. I believe we need to eliminate the copayment for all Tricare Prime enrollees and urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 3565.

HONORING HIGH POINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent Super Bowl, another exciting football season has come to an end. Before we put this season to bed, however, I wish to take a moment to recognize a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that just concluded a perfect football season. The High Point Central High School Bison completed a 15-0 season by capturing the 1999 North Carolina 2-A Football Championship.

High Point Central defeated Southwest Onslow by a score of 30-7 in Chapel Hill, NC, on December 11, 1999, to win the State 2-A high school title. In fact, going into the championship game, both teams were undefeated. The Bison used a swarming defense and an opportunistic offense to overwhelm the previously-unbeaten Stallions. The Bison completed one of the most dominating seasons in recent high school football history. The team had not one but two running backs who rushed for more than 2,000 yards each. The Bison scored 641 points in capturing both conference and regional titles.

Head Coach and Athletic Director Gary Whitman, who had won two State titles while at Lexington High School, led High Point Central to its first State championship since 1979. "The State championship is obviously a great exclamation point for the season," Coach Whitman told the High Point Enterprise. "Our kids deserve a lot of the credit and the coaching staff has done a great job. The pressure has been on them all year long, and they've handled it well. I'm proud of them for that, and it can't be much better than it is right now."

Coach, you are so right. Winning the State championship is the ultimate prize and it took complete cooperation from a lot of dedicated people to reach the pinnacle. First, we have to

recognize the players who made it happen. They include Derrick Bryant, Darius Johnson, Nick Garrison, Steve Turner, Chuckie Reid, Rashad Stevenson, Jonathon Holloman, Stanley Butler, Wayne Traylor, Quincy Thomas, Jonathon Spencer, Quincy Smith, Wich Brenner, Calvin Humphrey, Matt Brooke, Brian Bourn, Montrey Gilchrist, Antonio Graves, Kevin Green, Brandon Hunt, Brandon Tucker, Bradley Watson, Kwan Walls, Sam Hairston, Kedrick Russell, Clint Sarvis, Twain Johnson, Rickey Haywood, Rod Zimmerman, Josh Mitchell, Travis Cobb, Atari Evans, Alan Byerly, Tyler Walls, Michael Waugh, Grant Allred, Rodney Pitts, Andre Matthews, Titus Johnson, Tron McNeil, Travis Johnson, Joe Atkins, Roy Bronson, James Leak, Daniel Bell, Matthew Waugh, Brandon Greeson, Jerome Garrett, Kyle Ingram, Cornelius Leach, Reco Graham, Tony Dixon, Devin Buchannon, Phillip Green, and Dane Brenner.

Head Coach Whitman was ably assisted by an outstanding team of coaches including Bill Anderson, Steve Edwards, Jim Grkman, Chuck Henderson, Steve Johnson, Wayne Jones, Jeff Thomas, and Troy Whitman. The Bison support group including Dr. Richard Keever, the team physician, Ronnie House, the trainer, Winfrey Bivens and Jane Johnson, who handled the videotaping, along with ball boys Bret Hammer, Stephen Johnson, and Ben Thomas.

So, as High Point Central continues to celebrate its first football championship in 20 years, we offer our congratulations to everyone associated with Bison football. Everyone from Principal Helen Lankford to the students, staff, and faculty at High Point Central High School can take pride in capturing the ultimate prize. I join with the family, friends, and fans of Bison football in congratulating High Point Central High School for winning the 1999 North Carolina 2-A Football Championship. The season was, in a word, perfect.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER WADE BRUNSMAN

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a good friend, good husband, father, grandfather and a great public servant Mr. Wade Brunsmann.

Born in St. Louis and raised in Clinton County, Wade is the father of 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Wade, a Navy machinist, served as a chief of engine rooms aboard a minesweeper in World War II. He received his engineering degree from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and opened a heating and refrigeration service in 1957.

Elected to the St. Clair County Board in 1952, Wade has served on many committees and subcommittees. He served as the Chairman of St. Clair Board's Environment Committee working on many issues including storm water management, land use, zoning, landfill and environmental issues for the benefit of all citizens in our region. He also served as a member of the St. Clair County Board's Finance Committee which oversees the disbursement of monies for the County's day-to-

day operations and its long range planning, as well as compiling the County's annual budget. Wade was also instrumental in assisting the County in guiding the development of MidAmerica airport and the St. Clair County extension of MetroLink. Wade also has acted as the County Board's Vice-Chairman since 1991. He served on the St. Clair County Planning Commission since it was formed in 1989.

In his tradition of fine public service, Wade was also named officeholder of the year in 1986 by the Belleville Democratic Committee. As a true public servant, he also finds the time to volunteer his services to senior citizens throughout the area. In 1973, as Chairman of the St. Clair County Board, I appointed Wade to the Advisory Board for the Programs and Services for Older Persons program sponsored by Southwestern Illinois Community College. In recognition of his efforts, the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council awarded Wade a lifetime achievement for outstanding public service in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Mr. Wade Brunsman and wish he, his wife Barbara, his daughter Barbara Ann and the rest of his family, the very best in the future.

IN MEMORY OF RABBI SHOLOM KLASS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound and sincere sadness on the recent death of Rabbi Sholom Klass of Brooklyn, NY. After a long illness, the Rabbi died on January 17, 1999 at age 83. Rabbi Klass was truly a giant in Jewish life and an educator to both Jew and non-Jew, alike, on the beauty of G-d's law. Rabbi Klass was an inspirational leader who stood up for morality in the modern world. The Rabbi was a premier teacher of Torah, a pioneer in Anglo-Jewish journalism, and a passionate advocate for the Jewish people.

Rabbi Klass was one of the most important influences for promoting Jewish traditions in our Nation's history. As one of the greatest disseminators of Jewish learning in modern times, the Rabbi taught a weekly class in Talmud for more than 50 years. In addition, he authored "Response of Modern Judaism" (3 volumes). His dedication to spreading Torah into all Jewish homes led many to return to their Jewish roots and to celebrate their heritage. Indeed, he gave all, even those of us who are not Jewish, insights and an appreciation for the richness of Judaism.

One of the Rabbi's greatest achievements was his creation of The Jewish Press. In 1960, to promulgate Judaic thought and opinion, he created The Jewish Press out of secular Brooklyn Daily. Beloved as the newspaper's publisher and columnist for 40 years, he educated and nurtured an understanding of Jewish concerns and turned the paper into the world's largest Anglo-Jewish weekly—with 500,000 copies distributed each week. Many readers, in New York and around the world, say they looked to the Rabbi's writings to guide them through daily life.

Since the paper's creation, Rabbi Klass conducted a regular question-and-answer column

on Jewish law. A renowned author and scholar, who was blessed with a photographic memory, he tackled the gamut of biblical and Talmudic law. I understand that, over 40 years, the Rabbi responded to more than 20,000 questions, on issues ranging from the use of electricity on the Sabbath to the Torah's view on organ transplants. In his scared writings, he found a solution for every modern contingency of the human condition.

I get a great pleasure learning from, and writing for, The Jewish Press. I always appreciated the kindness that Rabbi Klass showed me in allowing me to be part of his incredible newspaper. Rabbi Klass was a wonderful, influential and talented man who used his abilities for great public service.

Finally, in addition to his dedication to spreading an understanding of Torah, through his teachings and his newspaper, Rabbi Klass was a powerful advocate for the Jewish people and the world over. His support for the State of Israel and for Orthodox Judaism was instrumental in formulating national and international policies. He was a distinguished member of the Directorate of the Rabbinical Alliance. With the death of Rabbi Sholom Klass, the world has lost a moral leader of great magnitude.

I want to extend my heartfelt and deepest condolences to the family of Rabbi Klass—to his wife, Irene, to his two daughters, Naomi Mauer and Mindy Greenwald, and to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of rollcall votes I recently missed and how I would have voted had I been present:

JANUARY 31, 2000

No. 2—Days of Remembrance: H. Con. Res. 244, Holocaust remembrance. Yea.

No. 3—Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Act, Senate amendments to H.R. 2130. Yea.

FEBRUARY 1, 2000

No. 4—Child Abuse Prevention & Enforcement Act, Senate amendment to H.R. 764. Yea.

No. 5—Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, H.R. 1838. Yea.

No. 6—Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2990, Quality Care for the Uninsured Act. Yea.

FEBRUARY 2, 2000

No. 7—Workplace Goods Job Growth and Competitiveness Act, H.R. 2005. Yea.

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

No. 8—Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Senate amendment to H.R. 1415. Yea.

No. 9—Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness, S. 632. Yea.

No. 10—Honoring the Former Speaker of the House, Carl B. Albert, H. Res. 418. Yea.

FEBRUARY 10, 2000

No. 11—Journal for Wednesday, 2/9/00. Yea.

No. 12—Rule (Marriage Tax Penalty Relief). Nay.

No. 13—Rangel substitute (Marriage Tax Penalty Relief). Yea.

No. 14—Hill of Indiana motion to recommit (Marriage Tax Penalty Relief). Aye.

No. 15—Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act (final passage), H.R. 6. Nay.

FEBRUARY 14, 2000

No. 16—National Donor Day, H. Con. Res. 247. Yea.

No. 17—Child Abuse and Neglect, H. Con. Res. 76. Yea.

FEBRUARY 15, 2000

No. 18—H.R. 3557, Gold Medal for Cardinal O'Connor. Yea.

No. 19—H.R. 3642, Gold Medal to Charles M. Schulz. Yea.

No. 20—H.R. 3201, Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act. Yea.

No. 21—Approval of the Journal for Monday, February 14, 2000. Yea.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY RYALS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, no one I know loved Tampa more than Shirley Ryals and no one I know worked harder to make our community a better place. Her passing is a tremendous loss for all of us.

I will never forget Shirley's incredibly selfless devotion to countless causes; her courage; her grace; her sense of humor, including her willingness to laugh at herself; and her remarkable ability to relate to people. Shirley did not hesitate to stand up for what she believed in. She often prevailed and got things done because people knew that she respected and appreciated them and that she was always thinking about what was best for our community.

Shirley Ryals did not understand the meaning of the word cannot. Such a word didn't exist in her vocabulary. Her approach was simply that anything was possible if you work hard and dedicate yourself to accomplishing a goal. Her work to bring three Superbowls to Tampa is a testament to that, as is the endless list of other good works she did to better our community.

Through the Tampa Junior Women's Club, she established the Tampa Oral School for the Deaf, the first preschool program in Hillsborough County that allowed families to keep their children at home instead of sending them hundreds of miles away for an education. The program has helped thousands of children emerge from their sounds of silence and is now a part of the Hillsborough County Public School System.

Her achievements, activities and honors are almost too numerous to mention. She was named Tampa's 1995 Citizen of the Year. She served as a trustee for the University of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and as an executive committee member of the American Red Cross, Hillsborough Community College Foundation and Outback Bowl Foundation. She was also on the Florida State Fair Authority and on the boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts of America, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation and many other groups.

One of the amazing things to me is that despite all the demands on her time, Shirley never let any project or any task come before her family. She was a devoted wife to Lester, a wonderful mother to Karen and Les, and a doting grandmother to Caroline and Courtney. She also carved out time each week for a Sunday night dinner with all of the family, a tradition that is becoming more and more rare in our busy society.

In an editorial praising Shirley's life, The Tampa Tribune wrote,

Shirley Ryals should be an inspiration to us all. She worked hard and effectively for the public good. She never lost sight of the importance of family and friends. And she left an enduring mark on her community, which benefited immeasurably from her wonderful way of helping people work together. It is commonplace in editorials like this to observe that the subject "will be missed." Missed? Shirley Ryals, how are we going to get along without you?

Like so many others in our community, I'm going to miss my dear friend, Shirley. May she rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall numbers 21 and 20, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF FREE TRADE OF SOFTWOOD LUMBER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution with my colleague from Arizona, Mr. KOLBE, and a bi-partisan group of 30 other Members. This resolution supports affordable housing for all Americans and promotes free trade of softwood lumber between the United States and Canada.

This resolution expresses the Sense of the Congress that the 1996 U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA) should not be extended when it expires in 2001. The President should continue discussions with the Government of Canada to promote open and competitive trade between the United States and Canada of softwood lumber, and that all stakeholders should be included in discussions regarding trade of softwood lumber.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 was intended to promote free trade; however, it appears to have had the opposite effect. More importantly, the expansion of this agreement is directly affecting consumers by increasing the cost of lumber used for homebuilding. For many Americans owning a home is a dream come true, but if lumber prices climb and homes are not affordable, for many Americans it will remain a dream unfulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution that will help ensure affordable housing for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ETHNOBIOLOGICAL SCIENTISTS

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, 1999, it was my great pleasure to participate in a reception on Capitol Hill to launch the "International Conference on Ethnomedicine and Drug Discovery," a significant scientific and cultural celebration of the role of traditional medicine in the discovery and development of new drugs and phytomedicines. I commend conference participants for their ethnomedical and ethnobotanical research efforts described during the conference, which provide solutions to problems of global public health, as well as the rapidly increasing loss of biological and cultural diversity.

The rich history of drugs from nature was delivered by Dr. Gordon Cragg of the U.S. National Cancer Institute. A presentation by Dr. Brian Schuster from the Walter Reed Army Research Institute followed, describing many lead compounds to treat malaria, leishmaniasis and trypanosomiasis from plants found in West and Central Africa. The active compounds, from plants that healers in Nigeria and Cameroon use regularly, were discovered through the U.S. International Cooperative Biodiversity Group program for the treatment of parasitic diseases. A special colloquium, organized by Dr. Maurice Iwu, Director of the Pan-African NGO Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme, was devoted to the West African medicinal plant *Garcinia kola* Heckel, also known as "bitter cola," containing antiviral, antiinflammatory, antidiabetic, bronchodilator and antihepatotoxic properties, and found recently to have potential for treatment of the Ebola fever.

The conference opening ceremony, "The Festival of Living Culture," featured West African healers and musicians conducting traditional welcoming ceremonies with plants, music and dance, followed by a Native American healer who performed a traditional Cherokee ceremony. This dramatic opening demonstrated how the core elements of traditional medicine are inherently integrated with science, spirit, art, dance and ritual.

The conference, held in Silver Spring, MD from November 3–5, 1999, included several hundred world wide participants. It was organized by national and international research, training and teaching organizations including the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme (www.bioresources.org), the Alternative Medicine Foundation (www.amfoundation.org), American Herbal Products Association (www.AHPA.org), Axxon Biopharma, Inc. (www.axxonbiopharm.com), the Missouri Botanical Garden (www.mobot.org), the National Center for Natural Products Research at The University of Mississippi (www.olemiss.edu), Bastyr University (www.bastyr.edu) and the Healing Forest Conservancy (www.shaman.con/Healing_Forest.html).

THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the senior member of the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation, I am honored to pay tribute to the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary.

On August 1, 1769, a Spanish expedition under the command of Gaspar de Portola came upon an Indian village called Yang-na along the banks of a river which Portola named El Rio de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula, (the River of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula), which was quickly shortened to Los Angeles. This was the site of present-day Los Angeles, but the Spanish did not return to Los Angeles until 1781, when a party of 44 colonists from Mexico was settled by Don Felipe de Neve, California's provincial governor, as part of Spain's effort to strengthen its control over its territories in the north. These first Angelinos fashioned a crude settlement to produce grain, just as the friars of San Gabriel Mission had done for a decade.

Americans first arrived in Los Angeles by way of nearby San Pedro, then an unimproved roadstead port. Beginning in 1805, U.S. vessels traded intermittently with the area's farmers and, in 1818, Joseph Chapman, a crew member, stayed long enough to help with construction of the town's first church. In 1826, the fur trapper Jedidiah Smith became the first white man to reach Los Angeles by traveling overland from the Missouri frontier, but he was followed by few others. It was not until the 1830s, with the arrival of whaling and seal hunting ships, that Americans became a regular presence in the provincial community.

Los Angeles had been affected little by the revolution that replaced Spanish rule with that of an independent Mexican government in 1821. Mexico's Congress declared Los Angeles the capital of California in 1835, but the provincial governor refused to move south from San Francisco, so the city's relative isolation and the local authority of its prosperous farmers and ranchers remained unthreatened. By the 1840's, Los Angeles had become the largest settlement in Southern California, attracting its first party of American pioneers, led by William Workman and John Rowland, in 1841.

The Mexican-American War of 1846 ushered in a new era for Los Angeles. The city was occupied in August by U.S. troops under Commodore Robert Field Stockton and Captain John C. Fremont, but the 50-man garrison left to hold the farm town was driven out by local residents a few months later. Stockton returned in January 1847, supported by land troops from New Mexico under General Stephen Watts Kearny, and retook the city in a battle with Mexican forces that had retreated there. They soon were joined by Fremont's California Battalion and, on January 13, Fremont signed the Treaty of Cahuenga at Los Angeles, which ceded California to the United States.

American influence grew steadily thereafter, with the first English-language school and the

first Protestant church arriving in 1850, the same year Los Angeles was officially incorporated and named the county seat. During the Gold Rush years in northern California, Los Angeles became known as the "Queen of the Cow Counties" for its role in supplying beef and other foodstuffs to hungry miners.

In 1876, seven years after the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Los Angeles was finally connected to the nation's rail system when the Union Pacific put in a line from San Francisco. The next year, local growers sent off their first carload of oranges, adding a new agricultural industry to the County's economy. Then, in 1885, the Santa Fe Railroad reached Los Angeles with a line that connected directly to eastern markets and touched off a fare war with the Union Pacific that would bring rates as low as one dollar for the trip west from St. Louis. Within a few years, more than 100,000 newcomers had arrived in the area, creating a real estate boom that drove land prices skyward.

Oil became a key ingredient in the Los Angeles economy in 1892, when Edward L. Doheny and Charles A. Canfield drilled the first well in a resident's front lawn. Soon there were 1,400 wells within the city and more in the surrounding area. By this time, however, Los Angeles was beginning to fear a shortage of water. Located in a semi-desert region, it required more than El Rio de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles, now called the Los Angeles River, to sustain its growing population and expanding industries. In 1904, William Mulholland, chief engineer of the Los Angeles water department, proposed bringing water by aqueduct across the Mojave Desert from the Sierra Nevada range, and by 1908 the project was underway. In just five years, Mulholland constructed an aqueduct more than 200 miles long, running through 142 tunnels, tapping the Owens River, and virtually opened the floodgates on a milestone in the engineering and environmental history of the West.

The early decades of the 20th century also saw the completion of Los Angeles harbor in 1914, just in time to profit from the shipping traffic working its way up the California coast from the newly completed Panama Canal. Los Angeles became the home of the American motion picture industry in these decades as well. Producers flocked there for the steady sunlight, which was vital to the outdoor filming techniques of the time, and found that Los Angeles could provide a variety of backdrops, ranging from desert wilderness to awesome snow-capped peaks. Beginning in 1911, they settled in a community that had been established by a pious land speculator during the boom years of the 1880's—a community that turned into the legendary Hollywood we know today.

The population of Los Angeles soared, doubling by the 1920's. The war years brought more manufacturing and industry and, with it, more people. Los Angeles today is a diverse County, ethnically and economically. It has become one of the United States' major urban centers. It is a leading manufacturing, commercial, transportation, financial, and international trade center. Aerospace production has flourished, and the entertainment industry has broadcasting as well as production centers in the area. Tourism is an anchor of the Los Angeles economy. There is an extensive system of freeways and major transcontinental

and regional railroad lines. Los Angeles International Airport is one of the busiest in the U.S., and the port of Los Angeles-Long Beach, on San Pedro Bay, handles more cargo than any other U.S. port on the Pacific Coast.

Today, instead of Los Angeles' riches coming from the surrounding hills of gold, our riches come from the great wealth of people, culture, and diversity. As the largest County in California, with an economy larger than all but eight countries in the world, we owe our prosperity to the men and women who have sacrificed and dedicated their lives to the social and economic strength of our County.

Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola bestowed upon us the name, the City of Angels. Today, the County of Los Angeles will begin a year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary. During this historic celebration, I encourage the people of the County to make a personal covenant with each other to honor our history, respect our diversity, and challenge ourselves to ensure a prosperous future.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed February 18, 19, and 20, 2000 as "Los Angeles County's 150th Birthday Days," beginning with special open houses sponsored by various County departments, opening the County's museums and gardens free to the public, a parade of Nations with hundreds of floats and marching bands, and a Festival of Nations with over 35 countries participating with native costumes, food, arts and crafts, and music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary. Our golden history is reflected throughout the County and is a constant reminder of the wealth of opportunity that continues to grace the people of the County of Los Angeles.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. STEPHENS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding public servant from my home state of New Jersey, Mr. Robert E. Stephens, the Director of the Division of Operations at New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Mr. Stephens began his career with the State of New Jersey in 1975 as the Superintendent of Newark House, a community-based service center. In 1982, he became Assistant Superintendent for the Mid-State Correctional Facility. In 1984, he advanced to the position of Superintendent of the Mid-State Correctional Facility, where he remained until 1986 when he became Administrator of Northern State Prison. In 1993 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Operations, and in 1994, he became the Director of the Division of Operations.

During his tenure, Mr. Stephens has earned an excellent reputation as a professional of the highest integrity, competence and ability to bring people together. He is well respected for his outstanding leadership and for his many accomplishments over the year.

On February 18, 2000, friends, family and colleagues of Mr. Stephens will gather to

honor him for his many years of service. I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in offering our appreciation to Mr. Stephens for a job well done and our very best wishes for continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR STEPHANIE JACKSON OF ASHLAND, KY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Stephanie Jackson of Ashland, KY, who is being recognized for outstanding service to her community. Ms. Jackson has been named one of Kentucky's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This honor is annually bestowed upon the most inspiring student volunteers nationwide.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, instituted their Spirit of Community Awards in 1995. These awards applaud young people who so generously donate their time and effort to bettering their neighborhoods and towns. In 5 years, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards has become the largest youth recognition program based solely on community service in the United States. I'm proud to say that Stephanie Jackson is one young lady who is certainly deserving of such recognition.

Ms. Jackson is at the age of 15, the founder of the Boyd County branch of the Kentucky Youth Council of Volunteerism and Service. Through this group, she has already implemented two service projects to better her community.

Stephanie Jackson is a positive example for young people across the nation, and I am proud to say, an indication of great things to come in Kentucky. It is with pride and gratitude that I congratulate her on being recognized for her dedication to community service.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHESTERTON HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Chesterton High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. On Saturday, February 5, 2000, the Chesterton High School Debate Team won its 11th state debate title.

Chesterton entered four Policy debate teams, four Lincoln Douglas debaters and five Congressional debaters. All 17 debaters broke out of the preliminary rounds and competed in the elimination rounds. Additionally, Chesterton won all three championships—Policy, Lincoln Douglas, and Congress—for a complete sweep of the tournament. No school in the state had ever accomplished this feat. Joel Cavallo and Paul Babcock survived the field of 44 teams to win the State Policy Debate title. In Lincoln Douglas debate, Matt

Gregoline was named the top debater in a field of 66. John Jernigan took the Congressional debate title, outlasting 86 competitors.

In addition, I would like to recognize the other members of the State Debate Championship Team: Dave Blumenthal; Meredith Chase; Aaron Dartz; Eric Galambak; Katie Hurley; April Jenkins; Stephanie Kendall; Christian Nallenweg; Sherry Nelson; Dave Odefey; Mike Podguski; Owen Sutkowski; and Amber Zehner. The team's success is also due to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers and coaches. In particular, James Cavallo, Carol Biel and Kirsten Turnak should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches. Additionally, Chesterton Principal Janice Bergeson and Dr. Kenneth Payne, Duneland Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their strong support of the debate program. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort, determined preparation and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Chesterton High School Debate Team for their commitment to excellence as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders, and I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top!

CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to be with you today.

As we gather here on this special occasion, we owe thanks for the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month, and most importantly, for the study of Black History, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Born to parents who were former slaves, Dr. Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at the age of 20. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Woodson, always one to act on his actions, decided to take on the challenge of ensuring the story of Black Americans was told in our nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and later founded the widely respected *Journal of Negro History*. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Understanding and appreciating the African-American experience not only enriches our national life, but it also reminds all Americans of their ethnic roots and the uniqueness of the great American experience: the nurturing of

mutual respect for different traditions and backgrounds.

Woodson choose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American Black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

It was Douglass who said, "We are one, our cause is one, and we must help each other; if we are to succeed."

And it was Lincoln who said at that famous address at Gettysburg, "we are highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Heritage and Horizons: The African-American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st Century."

Through the triumph of many obstacles and perseverance of the human spirit, African-Americans have and will continue to make valuable contributions to our everyday life. As we move forward in this new century, let's ensure that we honor those who have stood for equal justice and better human relations, and that we look to make the future brighter.

We can do this by remembering our heritage, recognizing our heroes, and reaching toward our future horizons.

FIRST, IT'S ABOUT REMEMBERING OUR HERITAGE

Each of us is here today because we want to build a heritage that makes us proud to be Americans. That heritage must ensure that we are united. As many of you so well know, unity has not always been the case. If we are ever to be united in the true sense of the word, we must ensure that all individuals, regardless of race, share the same rights and are granted equal protection under the law.

Our religious heritage requires us to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. This is the heritage that we want to provide for all!

As I mentioned earlier, Dr. Woodson chose February for Black History Month because of the birthdays of Douglass and Lincoln. However, February has much more than this to show for its significance in Black history heritage.

For example:

On February 1, 1960, four courageous young men—freshmen at North Carolina Agriculture and Technological College—sat down at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter and refused to leave until they were served.

On February 12, 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) formed by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.

On February 22, 1956, the black community of Montgomery, Alabama launched a bus boycott, which would last for more than a year, until the buses were desegregated.

On February 25, 1870, the first black U.S. Senator took his oath of office.

My very first job while in college was as a delivery boy for a black-owned business, Wesley's Florist, in Lumberton. Not only did I need that job, but also I found that being the only white employee required a special partnership between his family and me—a partnership that had pre-existed my employment because my father and the owner had worked together as young men for another florist!

When I was a president of the student body at Lumberton Senior High School, I worked in

partnership to help the first female be elected as president of the student body as my successor.

I have had the honor to coach black boys and girls on local youth sports teams and to work with children of all races as a volunteer in the schools for the last 18 years.

The first person I hired on my congressional staff was an African-American woman. Why? Because she was the most experienced case-worker on Capitol Hill that I knew, and she deserved it!

Each of these important actions and events reminds us of our heritage, and inspires us to continue moving forward.

SECOND, IT'S ABOUT RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES

Behind each action of Black heritage is a true American hero. These are heroes that inspire us, heroes that put others first, heroes that risked their lives so we would all be united!

Sidney Hook once said, "The hero finds a fork in the historical road, but he also helps to create it. He increases the odds of success for the alternative he chooses by virtue of the extraordinary qualities he brings to bear to realize it."

Those four freshmen at NC A&T—Ezell Blair, Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeill, and David Richmond—galvanized the conscience of America. Their extraordinary bravery set in motion a series of student sit-ins at more than fifty cities and nine states. Faced with physical violence, arrest, and taunting, thousands of white and black students set out to end segregation peacefully in movie theaters, restaurants, and public transportation. These were ordinary Americans that are heroes.

On the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, sixty prominent black and white citizens issued a call for a national conference in New York City to renew the struggle for civil and political liberty. Principal among those were W.E.B. Dubois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling. These were people who were committed to the abolition of forced segregation, promotion of equal education and civil rights under the protection of the law, and an end to race violence. Ordinary Americans that are heroes!

When jailed in Birmingham, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. composed a letter in the margins of a newspaper and continued writing on scraps of paper some of the most powerful words ever written. In responding to criticism from fellow clergymen, he eloquently described many injustices suffered by so many African Americans. Near the end of that letter, he noted that, "one day the South will recognize its real heroes." One of those heroes was a 72-year-old black woman who with quiet dignity refused to give up her seat on the bus in Birmingham, Alabama. This single brave act reverberated throughout our nation in a most powerful way. To paraphrase Rosa Parks, she said, "My feet are tired, but my soul is at rest." Ordinary Americans that are heroes.

The first African-American Senator, Hiram Rhodes Revels, is especially significant to us today. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He

was a true pioneer of American political life. Ordinary Americans that are heroes.

Among the other African-American heroes that we should also remember are:

Lillian Fishburne—the first African-American woman to be promoted to the rank of Admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Meredith Charles Gourdine—a man who pioneered research and inventions so that energy can be converted to practical applications.

Roger Arliner Young—the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940. A native of southern Virginia, she later taught at NC College for Negroes and Shaw University.

Josh Gibson—playing for the Pittsburgh Crawfords in the Negro Baseball League, Josh hit 85 home runs in one season and is the only player—black or white—ever to hit a fair ball over the triple deck stands and out of the old Yankee Stadium.

Little Rock Nine—I was pleased that they were recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their efforts in breaking down the color barriers in our nation's school system, and I enjoyed meeting them in Washington this past year.

Wilma Rudolph—a woman who overcame scarlet fever, polio, and pneumonia to become the first person to win 3 Gold Medals in a single Olympiad. I support efforts to award her the Congressional Gold Medal.

These are ordinary Americans that are heroes.

THIRD, IT'S ABOUT REACHING TOWARD OUR HORIZONS

When we remember our heritage and recognize our heroes, we can reach toward our horizons. Our nation's great purpose will never be realized unless we work together to build a better America—an America with horizons that ensure quality education for all, an America with horizons that ensure accessible, affordable, and available health care, and an America with horizons that ensure our neighborhoods, businesses, and schools are safe from crime.

To get to those bright horizons, we must act in partnership. God has given the people of this nation a mission to prove to men and women throughout this world that people of different races and ethnic backgrounds can not only work together, but also can enrich and enable both ourselves and our common heritage.

If Dr. King were here today, he would be pleased with the progress that has been made. But he would also tell us to roll up our sleeves; the horizons have not been met. The cause is not yet finished. Work remains to be done.

In the Seventh Congressional District, we have the great opportunity to bring into partnership all the different peoples who live here: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and whites. Together—and there are over 600,000 citizens in this district—we can make a real difference in America's horizon.

CONCLUSION

With a strong heritage, inspiring heroes, and an eye on the horizon, we can create better schools, better jobs, and better health care for everyone.

I challenge you to leave here today, not motivated by the fear of failure, but motivated by the destiny that guides you toward a brighter future for this country and its future.

Will you join me in remembering our heritage?

Will you join me in respecting our heroes?

Will you join me in reaching toward our horizons?

In doing so let's remember the last words of Dr. King's letter from the Birmingham jail:

Let us hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD FOOTE,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Edward T. Foote II, President of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. As many of my colleagues are already aware, President Tad Foote recently announced his resignation as the fourth president of the University effective June 1, 2001. Though his impending departure is a great loss for the University and its surrounding community, I would like to congratulate Tad and thank him for twenty years of hard work and dedication to improving the University of Miami.

Over the last two decades, President Foote has been instrumental in overseeing the University's rise to prominence as an elite institution of higher learning in the United States. The statistics are startling: funding for research at the University has reached a total of approximately \$176 million. In addition, the University received a startling number of applications for this year's freshman class—over 13,300 applications were received for an incoming class of 1,800. Finally, the University has experienced a banner year in its fundraising efforts, collecting a total of just under \$86 million. These figures, all school records, will ensure that the University is prepared to take on the challenges facing higher education in the United States as we enter the new millennium.

There can be no doubt that these impressive statistics are directly related to Tad Foote's stewardship of the University of Miami throughout the past twenty years. He has truly transformed the University, instilling a sense of pride and confidence in the quality of education that the school provides. Though his term as president will expire in 2001, President Foote has agreed to remain affiliated with the University until 2003 as Chancellor, a position that allows him to assist in the transition process. This decision to further his affiliation with the University is an action that clearly demonstrates President Foote's extraordinary dedication to the students and faculty of the University of Miami.

Mr. Speaker, though the South Florida community will truly miss the leadership that Tad Foote has provided as President of the University of Miami over the course of the past twenty years, I am confident that he will re-

main a prominent figure in the community as he begins to enter a new phase in his life. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and I would like to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the entire South Florida community.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MR. MARV VALENTINE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor one of my state's greatest advocates of integrity and moral character, Mr. Marv Valentine. Marv is a good friend, a community hero and an extraordinary public servant who has devoted his life to building the character of tens of thousands of Boy Scouts in Michigan. Marv is retiring this year after more than 30 years as the revered Camp Director of the Michigan Lake Huron Area Council's Boy Scout Camp, better known as Camp Rotary. I am sure that Congressman CAMP will echo my sentiments when I say that Marv has truly been an inspiration and a role model for Boy Scouts everywhere.

When Marv arrived at Camp Rotary in 1968, he was greeted with three dilapidated structures and a lackluster outreach program. Barely 100 Boy Scouts attended the Camp that summer. In the years that followed, the buildings were replaced, the number of children attending increased and additional structures were created. Because of Marv's perseverance and leadership, Camp Rotary, not only grew, but thrived.

What is truly astonishing, today, is the number of Boy Scouts who attend Camp Rotary every year—over 10,000. In Thirty years, Marv has led more than 100,000 Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts to that high plateau of character where leadership, honor and integrity are words to live by. So many of these young adults have grown into our community leaders and upstanding citizens. Those who attended Camp Rotary, like Mr. Frank Bartlett and Mr. Greg Flood, cite Marv's guidance as an essential influence in their life, and as a leader who they will always look up to, and always follow with trust and gratitude.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MR. MARV VALENTINE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, Camp Rotary is a testament to Marv's talents. The 1,100-acre youth camp boasts more than 20 buildings, including a nature lodge with one-way glass for viewing animals, a newly renovated dining hall, adequate staff cabins, a chapel, and handicap accessible showers. Marv designed character-building courses, like the two 10-station low runs, a 45-foot elevated path, and a 40-foot rappelling tower.

On February 19th, Marv Valentine will receive the Kentucky Colonels Award, a high honor reserved by the state for ambassadors

of good will and fellowship. It is truly well-deserved. Another honor that I might offer Marv, is the knowledge that he will forever be in the hearts and minds of thousands of boys, who will carry his guidance and wisdom like a badge of honor throughout their lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague Congressman JIM BARCIA joins me in wishing him much happiness in his retirement with his wonderful wife Justine, who has worked side by side with Marv at Camp Rotary for so many years, and with his son and three granddaughters. I am sure that, even in retirement, Marv's selfless community service and civic commitment will continue unabated, as will his shining example of moral integrity and honor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. JOE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the distinguished career of Robert S. Joe, the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During Mr. Joe's 27 years of service with the Corps, he has been responsible for the total District civil works and military programs and all aspects of project management associated with water and coastal resources projects, issues critical to California and the nation at large.

In 1985, Mr. Joe received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Award for his exceptional service. He has guest lectured and presented papers on public involvement, conflict resolution, public administration and environmental analysis over the years at several universities and seminars. He has been a tremendous asset to everyone in southern California, as well as the entire southwestern United States. His efforts on a wide variety of complex and vitally important Corps projects will benefit our nation for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Joe for all of his efforts on behalf of California and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and wish him well in his retirement.

SALUTE TO THE GREAT EXPLORER MATTHEW HENSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life and career of an African-American who can be considered one of the great arctic explorers, Matthew Henson. Mr. Henson was the first man to step foot on the North Pole. While history has credited Commander Robert Peary with this extraordinary accomplishment, it was in fact this humble, uncelebrated man who actually made the first triumphant step.

Matthew Henson is a tremendous motivation to us all. He ran away from home at the age of eleven and thirty-two years later on April 6, 1909, through many trials and tribulations, found himself at the top of the world.

Matthew Henson's achievements have been overlooked for far too long. He deserves our recognition and admiration for his amazing accomplishments. He warrants our credit for helping to introduce us to this important place.

He has been described by people who knew him well as a "great spirit" and a great man. Those words merely touch the surface, for his spirit and drive to do better is truly immeasurable, as are his remarkable achievements in the area of exploration. I am humbled to salute this great African-American, this great man.

STATEMENT REGARDING ORIGINAL COSPONSORS OF H.R. 3615

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that Congressman JERRY MORAN of Kansas was meant to be listed as an original cosponsor of important legislation, H.R. 3615, The Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act, which I introduced on February 10. I have added him as a cosponsor today.

DR. LEONEL VELA IMPROVES HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Leonel Vela, an individual who has contributed tremendously to the improvement of public health and wellness throughout Texas. Dr. Vela has served in many capacities at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and has significantly advanced health education and research. On March 1, he will complete his work at Texas Tech and begin working with the University of Texas Health Science Center in Harlingen. Dr. Vela will be greatly missed, but his investments at Texas Tech and throughout the state will continue for years to come.

Dr. Vela has dedicated his career to public health in order to improve the lives of individuals who do not have access to proper care. He grew up in Texas; his parents were migrant farm workers. Dr. Vela earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Stanford University. At the Baylor College of Medicine, he earned his doctorate of medicine and later received his master's in public health from Harvard University. Dr. Vela is married to Alicia and has four children.

Through his accomplishments and research, Dr. Vela has proven to be an expert in many areas such as diabetes prevention and treatment, migrant health and wellness, border health care, telemedicine, and women's health issues. He has written a variety of medical publications and made presentations throughout the state on various health topics. In addition, Dr. Vela has actively led in significant public health activities and initiatives. He directed the public health response to the Ebola Reston outbreak in Texas, co-founded the Rio

Grande Valley Diabetes Task Force, developed Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) in South Texas, and enacted the response to the Dengue Fever outbreak in South Texas. Dr. Vela also supervised the first regional birth defects registry program in Texas, founded the telemedicine mobile unit project to take health care services to rural communities in South Texas, and spearheaded the establishment of the "Women's Center" and the "Diabetes Center of Excellence" at South Texas Hospital.

Dr. Vela has been recognized for his achievements through various awards, fellowships, and appointments. He was one of only three individuals presented with the prestigious Plate of Bounty Award in 1999 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for his work in migrant health care. Dr. Vela was named the Selected National Institutes of Mental Health/APA Minority Fellow in 1989, and in 1986, he earned the Kellogg Fellowship in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University. Some of Dr. Vela's state and national appointments include the Texas Medical Association, the Governor's Border Working Group Health Subcommittee, the South Texas Health Education Committee, the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health, the TeleHealth Steering Committee for the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board, and the Good Neighbors National Environmental Board established by Congress.

Dr. Vela has displayed dedication to improving public health throughout Texas and has advanced the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. I would like to thank him for his commitment to providing access to health care for thousands of individuals, and I extend my best wishes to him in all of his future endeavors.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, each year approximately 300 students in my congressional district participate in the Model United Nations program. Acting as delegates from one of the United Nations member countries, these young people are afforded the opportunity to learn about that country, its culture and issues important to the nation; hone their research, debating and parliamentary skills; and interact with their peers on topics of international significance. This opens a new world to many of the students; in fact, some of them are inspired to pursue a course of study in international relations as a direct result of their work in the Model UN.

Among the teams from Southwest Florida is one from Port Charlotte High School which has competed at various forums, including Harvard University, and have amassed many awards, both as a team and individually. Following them to Harvard this week for a collegiate Model UN is a team representing Edison Community College. This is the third year that they have been invited to participate with baccalaureate schools.

We wish them luck and salute all of the young people who are devoting time to learning more about international issues.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2086) to authorize funding for networking and information technology research and development for fiscal years 2000 through 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Morella amendment to authorize networking and information technology research and development funding for the National Institutes of Health.

As Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the authorizing Committee for biomedical research, it is my great pleasure to join with Mrs. MORELLA to ensure that NIH receive the authorizing authority it needs to push the frontiers of research with powerful new tools. We were happy to work with the gentlelady from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and her capable staff in drafting this amendment, and ask that my colleagues join with me in supporting its adoption.

Thanks to the Republican-controlled Congress, funding for biomedical research through NIH has expanded from \$11.3 billion in FY 1995 to \$17.8 billion in FY 2000. The Morella-Bliley amendment would authorize future funding for NIH high-performance computing applications to examine issues as diverse as new strategies to provide health care access to underserved people through telemedicine, computer modeling of biological processes to substitute for human embryonic stem cells, and the implications of collaborative biomedical research via the Next Generation Internet.

Again, my thanks to the gentlelady from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for her assistance in accomplishing this initiative. Mr. Speaker, I also submit for the RECORD a letter that I received from the National Institutes of Health requesting our assistance with this authorization.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH,
Bethesda, MD, February 11, 2000.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,

Chairman, Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to request your assistance on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on a matter of importance to our information technology activities. As you may know, H.R. 2086, the Networking and Information Technology and Research and Development Act of 1999, is pending in the House of Representatives. The inclusion of NIH in certain provisions of the legislation would help advance biomedical research.

The primary purpose of the bill is to authorize funding for networking and information technology (IT) research and development for fiscal years 2000 through 2004 for the following agencies: National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency. The NIH should be authorized to participate in programs outlined in the bill because, like the agencies listed above, we share the commitment to, and investment for, both the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) and Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiatives. In fact, in fiscal year (FY) 1999, NIH funding for information technology and high performance computing and communications activities was \$110,535,000. We estimate that we will spend approximately \$182,782,000 in FY 2000 and \$217,127,000 in FY 2001 for related activities.

With regard to H.R. 2086, Section 4 of the legislation authorizes only the agencies mentioned above to participate in the NITRD grant program for long-term basic research on networking and information technology. Priority is given to research that helps address issues related to high end computing and software and network stability, fragility, reliability, security (including privacy), and scalability. It is important to note that the biomedical community is increasingly using the power of computing to manage and analyze data and to model biological processes. Recognizing that biomedical researchers need to make optimal use of IT, NIH supports (1) basic research and development in the application of high performance computing to biomedical research, (2) basic research, education, and human resources in bio-informatics and computational science to address research needs of biomedicine, (3) research in, and application of high-speed networking infrastructures such as the NGI for health care, health and science education, medical research and telemedicine through the High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) Initiative. Enclosed are the funding levels for NIH in this area.

Section 5 of the legislation reauthorizes funding for agencies in support of the NGI initiative. Though excluded in this reauthorization funding, the NIH has made a serious commitment to furthering telemedicine by sponsoring dozens of projects around the country, in a variety of rural and urban settings. NIH has funded studies about privacy and confidentiality issues, how telemedicine projects should be evaluated, and what medical uses might be made of the NGI. In fact, over the next three years, the NIH is funding test-bed projects to study the use of NGI capabilities by the health community.

In summary, because of the commitment and investment shared by NIH in both the ITRD and NGI initiatives, we deem it appropriate that the legislation allow other agencies, such as NIH, to participate in the NITRD program and to specifically reauthorize NIH for the NGI initiative.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give us on the matter. I can be reached on (301) 496-3471, should you or your staff have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

MARC SMOLONSKY,
Associate Director for
Legislative Policy and Analysis.

PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the passage of H.R.

3557 to bestow a Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor. With the Cardinal's retirement arriving in the near future, it is time for us to publicly thank him for his important contributions to American public life.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, Cardinal O'Connor is arguably one of the most influential American Catholic prelates in the second half of this century. He is a Priest, a Bishop, and Cardinal of the Catholic Church. But he is also more than that. He is a retired Admiral in the United States Navy, a statesman, an accomplished academic, and a leader in the pro-life movement.

From his boyhood in Philadelphia to his present-day residence in New York City, Cardinal O'Connor has served the poor and the sick. Throughout his career, he has worked with local charities to provide needed assistance for the poor. Additionally, he was critical in extending health care for AIDS patients in the early days of the AIDS crisis. To this day, the Archdiocese of New York is still the largest health care provider for AIDS patients in New York City.

However, fewer people are aware that Cardinal O'Connor is a veteran. For twenty-seven years, Cardinal O'Connor served his country honorably as a Chaplain in the United States Navy. He later was ordained a Bishop by Pope John Paul II so he could serve as the Bishop for the Military Archdiocese. After serving in this position for four years, he became Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania and was then evaluated to his Cardinal See in New York City 1985.

Furthermore, Cardinal O'Connor provided one of the most important voices in America for the unborn. His commitment to the unborn is a well-known and important aspect of his pastorate as the Cardinal in New York City. He has been an effective advocate for the unborn in both a pastoral and legislative capacity. Additionally, he headed the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is completely committed to ending the horror of legalized abortion on demand and will be remembered for that.

Many times, people on the side of keeping abortion legal claim that the pro-life movement does little to support pregnant women. Cardinal O'Connor's example refutes this. On January 23, 2000, he re-stated publicly promised.

On the 15th of October in 1984, I announced from this pulpit that any woman, of any religion, of any color, of any race, of anywhere could come here to New York and we would do everything that we could if she were unable to meet her needs herself to provide free hospitalization, free medical care, free legal care, whatever she needed so that her baby could be born.

Mr. Speaker, we should take this opportunity to commend and impart our thanks to Cardinal O'Connor by bestowing this Congressional Gold Medal upon him.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3673
UNITED STATES-PANAMA PART-
NERSHIP ACT OF 2000

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced H.R. 3673, the "United States-Panama Partnership Act of 2000."

The purpose of this legislation is to give our President authorities that he can use to seek an agreement with Panama to permit the United States to maintain a presence there sufficient to carry out counternarcotics and related missions.

This legislation is virtually identical to a bill I introduced in 1998, H.R. 4858 (105th Congress). The original cosponsors of H.R. 4858 included DENNIS HASTERT, now Speaker of the House of Representatives; CHARLIE RANGEL, Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee on Ways and Means; CHRIS COX, Chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee; BOB MENENDEZ, now Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus; DAVID DREIER, now Chairman of the Committee on Rules; FLOYD SPENCE, Chairman of the Committee on National Security; HENRY HYDE, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary; DAN BURTON, Chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; and BILL MCCOLLUM, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I am introducing H.R. 3673 because Panama and the United States today stand at a crossroads in the special relationship between our two peoples that dates back nearly 100 years. As the new century dawns, our two nations must decide whether to end that relationship, or renew and reinvigorate it for the 21st century. We must decide, in other words, whether our nations should continue to drift apart, or draw closer together.

In the case of Canada and Mexico—the other two countries whose historical relationship with the United States most closely parallels Panama—there has been a collective decision to draw our nations closer together. This decision, embodied in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was grounded in a recognition that, in today's world, our mutual interests are best served by increased cooperation and integration.

The legislation I am introducing today offers Panama the opportunity to join Canada and Mexico in forging a new, more mature, mutually beneficial relationship with the United States. In exchange, the legislation asks Panama to remain our partner in the war on drugs by agreeing to host a U.S. presence, alone or in conjunction with other friendly countries, sufficient to carry out counternarcotics and related missions.

In accordance with the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977, the United States terminated its military presence in Panama at the end of

1999, and Panama assumed full control of the Panama Canal and all former U.S. military installations.

A 1977 protocol to the Treaties provides that the United States and Panama may agree to a U.S. presence in Panama after 1999. For three years, U.S. and Panamanian negotiators sought to reach just such an agreement. On September 24, 1998, however, it was announced that these negotiations had failed and that the U.S. military would withdraw from Panama as scheduled.

This was a regrettable turn of events for both of our countries. The United States and Panama both benefited in many ways from the U.S. presence in Panama. For the United States, that presence provided a forward platform from which to combat narcotrafficking and interdict the flow of drugs, which threatens all countries in this hemisphere. These benefits to the United States cannot be duplicated at the so-called "forward operating locations" that the Administration is seeking to set up in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For Panama, the U.S. presence added an estimated \$300 million per year to the local economy, fostered economic growth by contributing to a stable investment climate, and helped deter narcoterrorism from spilling over into Panama.

In retrospect, the Clinton Administration acted precipitously in 1995 when it rejected Panama's offer to negotiate an extension of our traditional presence in exchange for a package of benefits to be mutually agreed upon. In the wake of that decision, the effort to establish a Multinational Counternarcotics Center failed to gain broad support across Panama's political spectrum.

My legislation returns to, and builds upon, the concept proposed by Panama in 1995 of permitting a U.S. presence in Panama beyond 1999 in exchange for a package of benefits. The legislation also accepts the idea first proposed by Panama of permitting counternarcotics operations from Panama to take under multinational auspices.

The legislation includes four specific provisions of benefit to Panama.

First, and most importantly, the bill offers to bring Panama into the first rank of U.S. trade partners by giving Panama the same preferential access to the U.S. market that Canada and Mexico currently enjoy. The economic value of this benefit for Panama is difficult to quantify today, but over time it should lead to significantly increased investment and employment there, which would directly benefit all Panamanians.

Second, it offers a scholarship program for deserving Panamanian students to study in the United States.

Third, it offers assistance in preparing for the construction of a new bridge across the Panama Canal.

Fourth, it offers assistance in preparing for the construction of a new sewage treatment plant for Panama City.

Taken together, these specific provisions give substance to the larger promise of this legislation, which is to renew and reinvigorate the special relationship between our two peoples as we enter the 21st century, provided the people of Panama decide they want to remain our partner.

Under Article I, section 7 of the U.S. Constitution, this bill can only originate in the House of Representatives. The list of original cosponsors of the version of this bill that I introduced in 1998, H.R. 4858, makes clear that, if brought to a vote on the House floor, this legislation would pass the House of Representatives. I am confident that the Senate would join the House in approving this measure, provided that the people of Panama indicate that they too wish to strengthen relations between our two countries along the lines proposed in the bill.

It is my sincere hope that Panama will accept this invitation to reinvigorate the special relationship between our two peoples. I recognize, however, that the right to make this choice rests with the people of Panama, and naturally our nation will respect their decision.

SUMMARY OF UNITED STATES-PANAMA
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2000

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Offers trade and other benefits to Panama if the President certifies to Congress that the United States and Panama have reached an agreement permitting the United States to maintain a presence at four installations in Panama (Howard Air Force Base, Fort Kobbe, Rodman Naval Station, and Fort Sherman), alone or in conjunction with other friendly countries, sufficient to carry out necessary counternarcotics, search and rescue, logistical, training, and related missions for a period of not less than 15 years.

The benefits that would be made available to Panama include:

1. NAFTA-equivalent treatment under U.S. trade laws for exports from Panama.
2. Assistance from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency for design, planning, and training in connection with construction of a new bridge across the Panama Canal.
3. Assistance from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency for design, planning, and training in connection with construction of a new sewage treatment plant for Panama City.
4. \$2 million per year in scholarships for deserving students from Panama to study in the United States.

The NAFTA-equivalent treatment for exports from Panama would be made available unilaterally by the United States during a three-year transition period. Prior to the conclusion of the transition period, the United States and Panama would negotiate and enter into an agreement providing either for Panama's accession to NAFTA, or for the establishment of a bilateral free trade arrangement comparable to NAFTA. Free trade benefits under this agreement would be guaranteed for a period at least as long as the period during which the U.S. is permitted to maintain a military presence in Panama.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 22

- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Capitol Police Board, Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, Congressional Research Service, and the Joint Committee on Taxation.
SD-116
- 10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the international trafficking in women and children.
SD-419
- United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
Finance
International Trade Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine U.S. assistance options for the Andes.
SD-215
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219
- Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings on East Asia in 2000, focusing on problems and prospects in the year of the dragon.
SD-419
- Judiciary
To hold hearings on pending judicial nominations.
SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Administration's effort to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for Indian programs.
SR-485
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).
SR-253
- Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-366
- Judiciary
To hold hearings on the proposed Unborn Victims of Violence Act.
SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219

- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the White River National Forest Plan.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

- 9 a.m.
Small Business
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A
- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on the nomination of Thomas A. Fry, III, of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.
SD-366
- Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the day trading industry and its practices.
SD-342
- 10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Army Corps of Engineers.
SD-406
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Commerce.
SD-138
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219

2:30 p.m.

- Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1722, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; H.R. 3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State; and S. 1950, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 25

- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To continue hearings to examine the day trading industry and its practices.
SD-342

FEBRUARY 29

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget estimate for fiscal year 2001 for the operation of the National Park Service system.
SD-366

- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Justice.
SD-192

- 2:30 p.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending committee business.
SR-485
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fy2001, focusing on the U.S. Forest Service.
SD-366

MARCH 1

- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the National Association of Public Administrators' Report on Bureau of Indian Affairs Management Reform.
SR-485
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fy2001, focusing on the Department of the Interior.
SD-366

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendation of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 2

- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on legislative recommendations of the Jewish War Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans

of America, Blinded Veterans Association, and the Non Commissioned Officers Association.

345 Cannon Building

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fy2001, focusing on the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of State.

S-146, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the United States Forest Service's proposed revisions to the regulation governing National Forest Planning.

SD-366

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association.

345 Cannon Building

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-192

MARCH 15

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 21

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

S-146, Capitol

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Retired Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 23

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

S-146, Capitol

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the Monetary Policy Report to Congress pursuant to the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.

SH-216

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 1967, to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band.

SR-485

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on the proposed Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

SR-485

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485